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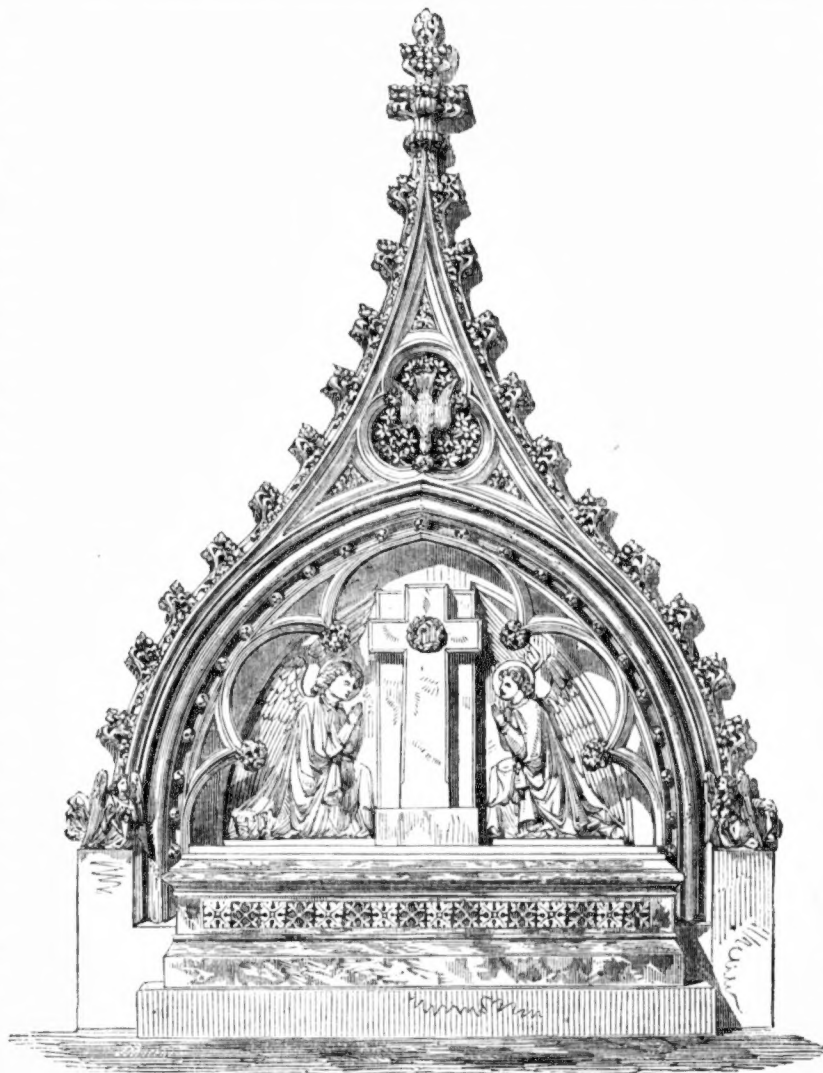
No. 249.—VOL. 10.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1860.

PRICE 2½D.—STAMPED, 3½D.

PROSPECTS OF THE NEW YEAR.

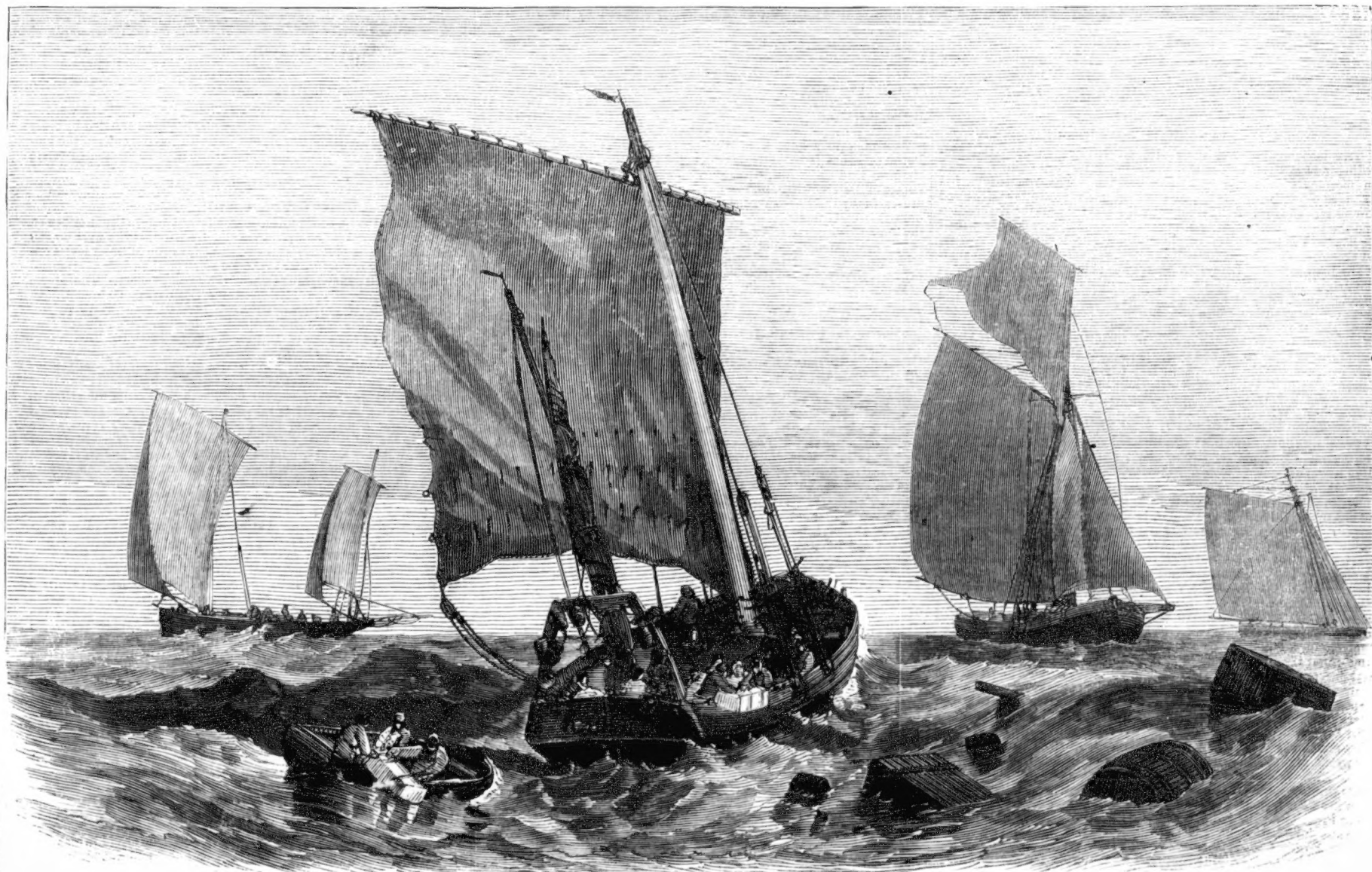
THE prevailing characteristic of the political situation at present is uncertainty, but an uncertainty less mingled with apprehension than has been usual lately. We do not know what the Emperor of the French means to do at the Congress—nay, we cannot be sure, even, that there will be a Congress at all. But, on the whole, the feeling between France and Britain is better than it was two months since; and the rage of the ultra-Catholics everywhere points to a probable solution of the Italian question very unpalatable to the Pope. Now, the great danger some time since was that France and Britain would split on the Italian question through Napoleon's apparent leaning to the illiberal side of it. We have desired all along, with a singular unanimity, that since war *had* taken place in Italy, and changed the face of it, the natural and lawful results of the war should be accepted. Nothing less would justify the bloodshed; for any other policy would have been tenfold worse than the abuses which the war was begun to remedy. For some time the French Emperor seemed inclined to disappoint Italy; but affairs have taken a different turn of late, and now it is the Papists who are making him run the gauntlet. Of course, we all understand in England that a greater friendliness with France to-day is not to undo the works of preparation commenced yesterday. There is no need luckily, to preach *that*. But at the same time we likewise know that it is better to be on good terms with France than bad ones, and that to bring the arbiter of the Continent round to our way of thinking on any subject is a very desirable accession to our consequence. So, upon the whole, and though well aware that the wind may change once more, yet, again, before a Congress meets, the country begins its New Year more hopefully than might have been expected. The assurances of "confidence and peace" from the throne of France on New-Year's Day are better than such words as brought down the Funds a twelvemonth since. We begin to hope a little—to hope that



MONUMENT TO THE EARL OF ELLESMERE.

the sense of gratified vanity from a consciousness of strength and influence may suffice the French for the present, without more blood. If not, it is evident that the British people is resolute enough. But we need not go into *that*. England is willing enough to cultivate peace, and there is no need for much *talk* on graver considerations.

We trust that the French Emperor clearly sees his way to mastering the Ultramontane bigots, who are a nuisance to his reign. Arrogant and dictatorial as petted, they become vilely insolent at the first check. A *second* warning to the infamous *Univers* is one good sign. The fume and froth of the party everywhere, from the noisy bogtrotters of Ireland to the sallow hypocrites of the South, is another. The Emperor has used them, and despises them, it would seem, as far as his own empire is concerned. Indeed, there exist elements in France which are fatal to permanent Ultramontanism there—first, the *national* feeling; then the philosophical, critical, mocking spirit; then the deeply-rooted religious liberalism or indifference which is at the bottom of her toleration. Even the country peasantry in the north of France are singularly indifferent to the clergy. The State is *the* power in France, and in good hands can always keep the Church in order. It pays the working clergy like a spiritual police, but need apprehend no dictation from the order, if it ally itself with the real masses of opinion and feeling throughout the country. Napoleon, then, "uses" the bigots, while the bigots "use" the Emperor of Austria—a mighty difference between the Catholicism of the two Powers. So, he is playing the Pope like a fish. He keeps his City quiet for him, but he terrifies him every now and then with such threats as those of the recent pamphlet. When he has wearied him, he will laud him; remain master of the situation in Italy without being "excommunicated;" and win the English alliance by justifying last year's campaign. This course, we say, is open to him, and seems to have attractions for him just now. All it needs is firmness in



FRENCH FISHING-BOATS PICKING UP PORTIONS OF THE WRECK OF THE "BLERVIE CASTLE."



"accepting" the Italian situation. He agreed at Villafranca that the Dukes should return—if they could. But he is under no obligation to help them. If Austria does, she invades his Ally's territory of Lombardy, and recommences a war the first shot of which revolutionises Hungary. What remains? Dukes, and Pope, and Naples—versus Sardinia, Garibaldi, and all young Italy: a fight the end of which would not be doubtful. Let Napoleon take the generous course, and we are certain that the old party will allow things to settle themselves without such a risk as the last. He need only keep the ring, they will patch up things without a fight.

At home we do not, after all, torture ourselves about these matters. If there be a Congress, our line of opinion is known. If there be none, there will be no national wailing. Our political temper is altogether cool just now, whether as to foreign or as to home matters. The New Year begins with a prevailing dulness—which, however, is a cheerful dulness—about most subjects of political interest. The *Times* has contrived to inform us, this week, that the Cabinet is taking the Reform Bill easily, and we none of us doubt it. Most people believe that, when it does come, it will only differ in degree—not in kind—from the rejected one of Lord Derby. The qualification will be made lower, probably, and the towns be more favoured. But there is no prospect of electoral districts, ballot, or the abolition of the boroughs typified by Arundel and Calne. In short, there will be no democratic measure from a Cabinet composed of Aristocratic Whigs and Conservative-Liberal Peelites, as might naturally be supposed; and the country will not demand one. A good deal will depend on Mr. Bright's line. His own bill being hopeless, will he allow a non-democratic measure to pass, and shelve the question for his life at all events? Who knows? If not, the old game might perhaps be played again, and the Whigs flung out by Radical help, to make way for a Conservative Government. But various considerations make this improbable. All the better class of statesmen want the question settled reasonably and moderately, which can only be done by an understanding between them, whether their parties be the same or no. At bottom the question is, whether we want the House of Commons fundamentally altered in its character or not. If we do—that is, if we want, instead of country gentlemen, occasional scholars, rich men of business, and officers in the Army and Navy—an assembly of persons of a lower social grade—we require a measure as wide as a revolution, and need expect no internal concord ever after. But, if we do not want this, and only a certain symmetrising and liberalising of the existing system, then we want a bill concerning which no honest, earnest Whig need, at this time of day, much differ from an honest, earnest Tory. Then—whatever party brings in the bill, the other had best accept it, while improving it, in the best temper possible. Lord Derby's Bill was quite capable of having been shaped into a good moderate bill, as we urged at the time. But the Whigs preferred the risk of a democratic one to concurring in the necessary modification of it. Will the Earl take his revenge? We know not. But we do know that a prolonged agitation of the subject is very bad for the country's political health. It is making the "medicine of the Constitution" its "daily bread," as Burke said so admirably. Nevertheless, the subject has now got to a stage when it must be gone through with. If the Reform Bill be dropped, the next one started will be all the more violent, and the upper classes will pass for having trifled with the Constitution for selfish gain. We dare say the present Government would let the top cease to spin if they could; but the whip of Mr. Disraeli and the cudgel of Mr. Bright may be usefully employed in keeping up its motion. Next to an extreme bill the worst thing that could happen now would be having no bill at all. We know the use that the platforms of next autumn would make of that.

THE ELLESMERE MEMORIAL.

THE monument of which we give an illustration upon the preceding page is fixed in the new chancel of Hatchford Church, erected in memory of the late Earl of Ellesmere. The recessed part is executed in statuary marble, the two angels representing Hope and Humility. The foot of the cross bears the text: "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." The letters are cut and gilded. The tomb is of alabaster, on the upper moulding of which is a neat brass inscription, by Waller, "The Lord gave, the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." The base of the tomb bears the following inscription on brass, "In Memory of Frances Egerton, Earl of Ellesmere, K.G., and as an earnest of their devoted affection, in life and in death—this Monument and the Chancel in which it stands have been erected by his Widow and two of his Children A.D. 1859." The canopy is richly sculptured in Caen stone, and altogether stands about ten feet high. It was designed by E. Blare, Esq., and executed with great taste by James Forsyth, of 8, Edward-street, Hampstead-road, London.

THE LOSS OF THE "BLERVIE CASTLE."

PORTIONS of the wreck of this ill-fated ship have been picked up by the French fishermen off Calais, who state that they saw numbers of dead bodies of men, women, and children floating among the spars and the debris of the ship.

That the catastrophe took place during the night of the 20th ult., and on either the Varne or Ridge Sands, has now been satisfactorily ascertained. It appears the wreck was first seen about eight o'clock on the following morning by the captain and chief officer of the General Steam Navigation Company's steamer *Panther*, while on their passage from Boulogne to London, and who, from some oversight or other, omitted on their arrival in the Thames to report the fact either to Lloyd's or the *Shipping Gazette*, by which the loss of the *Blervie Castle* would have been known forty-eight hours earlier. The wreck was observed to the eastward of the Varne and Ridge Sands, and some ten or twelve miles off the French coast, the wind blowing hard at the time from the south-west, with a high sea. The chief mate at first perceived something large looming in the distance right in the course of the steamer. His impression at the moment was that it was a species of whale which is occasionally seen in the Channel, but soon afterwards he detected it was the wreck of a 600 or 700 ton ship, floating with her bilge out of the water. The course of the *Panther* was direct at it, and it was only by her helm being put hard aport that she cleared the wreck, otherwise she might have sustained serious damage. The wreck was sheathed with yellow metal, and she appeared to have been painted a buff colour inside her bulwarks and stanchions, or rather what remained of them. Captain Russell, who was dispatched to the French coast by the underwriters at Lloyd's, to collect all the authentic information on the melancholy subject, writes to say "that the wreck of the *Blervie Castle* was seen driving about twelve miles N.E. of Calais. Four fishing-boats had had it in tow for sixteen hours, endeavouring to get into some place on the coast; but, were at length obliged to relinquish their charge on account of the strong wind. The fishermen describe the wreck to be much damaged in her stern, that all her masts were gone, and she was lying on one side." On the 26th ult. some Deal luggers came up with the wreck between the Kentish Knock and the Galloper, fifty or sixty miles from the Varne Sand, and they got it in tow, and succeeded in getting it on to the main to the eastward of Ramsgate harbour. From its shattered state it was evident that

some vessel had struck upon it during the time while driving about. Lloyd's agent at Ramsgate describes it as the port side of a ship from stem to stern, of about 600 tons, broken off at the floor heads, yellow metalled and fastened, all black outside, and partly planked with oak or teak. It was painted with a narrow white streak, and the poop and topgallant forecastle appeared to have been newly coppered. Our illustration shows the French boats recovering portions of the wreck off Calais.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The *Moniteur* of Thursday contains a decree of the Emperor appointing M. Thouvenot Minister for Foreign Affairs, replacing Count Walewski, resigned. M. Baroche is intrusted *ad interim* with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until the arrival of M. Thouvenot.

The reception of the diplomatic corps on January 1 passed over without that significant utterance which it was thought the Emperor Napoleon might take occasion to indulge in.

On entering the Salle du Trône his Majesty first met the Papal Nuncio, Monsignore Saccione, who presented to the Emperor, in the name of the Diplomatic Corps, their respectful wishes for the happiness and prosperity of his Majesty and of his august family. The Emperor, in reply, said:—

I thank the Diplomatic Body for the good wishes it has addressed to me on the advent of the New Year, and I am especially happy this time to have the opportunity of reminding its representatives that since my accession to power I have always professed the most profound respect for recognised rights. Be, then, assured that the constant aim of my efforts will be to re-establish everywhere, inasmuch as depends upon me, confidence and peace.

Some accounts have it that, instead of "recognised rights," his Majesty used the words "acquired rights" in this little speech.

A decree of the Emperor confirms the nomination of the Secretaries of the Senate of the preceding year for next Session.

Lord Cowley left Paris on Monday for an interview with Lord Palmerston in London.

ITALY.

In reply to an inquiry of the Financial Consulta, the Pope says that he has received offers amounting to 12,000,000 of Roman scudi, made by Catholics, but that he has provisionally refused them.

At his reception of the Diplomatic Corps on New-Year's Day the King of Sardinia made no remarks bearing on European affairs.—The Marquis de Villamarina having refused the post of Governor of Milan offered to him, Count Gallina, senator, has been raised to that dignity. M. de Villamarina has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to Naples.

AUSTRIA.

An autograph letter of the Emperor Francis Joseph, addressed to his Minister of the Interior, under date of the 27th of December, specifies the way in which the reduction of the army is to be carried out. It consists in the simple expedient of discontinuing all compulsory recruiting during the year just begun, without any counterbalancing increase in the number of recruits next year.

According to the ceremonial observed at the Austrian Court, the Grand Chamberlain of the Emperor received on New Year's Day, in the name of his Majesty, the congratulations of the Diplomatic Corps.

The *Cologne Gazette* says:—"The Governor of Venice went a few days ago to Vienna to warn the Cabinet that Venetia would be ungovernable if concessions were not made, and he conjured the Emperor himself to make those concessions rather than have them imposed on him by the Congress. The observations of the Governor were, however, but coolly received."

PRUSSIA.

A report that the Prince of Hohenzollern intended to resign the Presidency of the Council of Ministers is declared by the *Prussian Gazette* to be unfounded.

An order, signed by the Prince Regent, convokes the Prussian Chambers for the 12th inst.

The Conference of the German States on the seacoasts (which was convoked by Prussia on the 14th ult.), for the purpose of discussing the question of fortifying the shores, will be opened on the 9th instant at Berlin, it seems.

RUSSIA.

According to a letter from Warsaw, the religious persecution of the Polish Catholics is not less constant, odious, and cruel under the present Emperor than under his predecessor. Some poor peasants living in the village of Dziernowize, in the government of Witepska, were lately prevented by the Russian popes and gendarmes from assisting at the united Greek Catholic service, and were forced by the sabre to receive the communion in the schismatic church.

The financial position of the Russian Government is reported to be still extremely embarrassed, although the last loan of £12,000,000 has been completely covered through the influence of Baron Rothschild.

Prince Gortschakoff left St. Petersburg on the 27th ult. for Paris. The sentence of imprisonment, military degradation, and loss of title inflicted on General Zastler for having cheated the Government during the war in the Crimea has been modified through the intercession of Prince Michael Gortschakoff, the defender of Sebastopol. The ex-Commissary-General has been simply dismissed the service, and retains his titles and fortune.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

Letters from Constantinople to the 28th ult. confirm the sudden dismissal of Kibrieli Pacha, and affirm that it was caused by his demanding a settlement of the debts of the Seraglio and Harem. Ruchdi Pacha had been appointed Grand Vizier, and Aali Pacha President of the Tanzimat, which office was formerly held by Ruchdi Pacha. It was believed that Mehemet Kibrieli Pacha would soon be reappointed Grand Vizier. The friends of reform were dispirited, although Ruchdi Pacha has the reputation of being a reformer. The new Grand Vizier had dispatched a note to the Powers, promising his approval of the Suez Canal scheme, should they come to an understanding on the question.

AMERICA.

Up to the 24th of December no Speaker had been elected for the House of Representatives at Washington, and therefore the President's Message remained uncommunicated.

The estimates for the next fiscal year exhibit a great reduction of expenditure—no less than four millions sterling as compared with President Pierce's Administration. This certainly wears a pacific aspect.

The terms of the treaty which the United States have made with the Mexican Government have been published. They comprise some most important concessions, such as the perpetual right of way across the isthmus of Tehuantepec, the passage of goods free of duty, the right to guard the transit by armed force, &c. In return, the Americans are to pay some four millions of dollars—that is, eight hundred thousand pounds.

INDIA.

A telegram from Bombay gives us the important news that two thousand rebels and their leaders, Mamoo Khan, Khan Bahdoor, Khan Beni Mahdoo and his two sons have been taken taken prisoners. The Begum escaped.

AUSTRALIA.

When the last mail for England quitted Melbourne waters it was at the close of a general election, which had resulted in the return of a large majority hostile to the O'Shanassy Administration. We now learn that that Administration has been overthrown on the debate on the Address. The Governor confided to Mr. Nicholson the task of forming a new Administration, and the following list was submitted to the Governor, and received his approbation:—Chief Secretary, Mr.

Nicholson; Treasurer, Mr. McCulloch; Public Lands, Mr. Service; Public Works, Mr. J. C. King; Post Office, Mr. Bailey; Customs, Mr. Pyke; Attorney-General, Mr. J. D. Wood; Solicitor-General, Mr. Adamson.

THE AFFAIRS OF ITALY.

THE CONGRESS.

The Paris *Pays* announces that the Powers which were to have sent Plenipotentiaries to the Congress have been apprised that the meeting cannot take place on the day originally fixed; no after day is yet appointed.

We are informed from Rome that the Duke of Grammont has positively stated to the Holy See that the pamphlet "Le Pape et le Congrès" does not contain the programme of the French Government for the Congress. The telegram adds that the explanation has produced an excellent effect on the Sovereign Pontiff, and hopes are entertained that his Holiness will not object to be represented at the Congress—when it meets.

A Turin correspondent of the *Daily News* gives an account of Count Cavour's anticipations of what will be proposed at the Congress:—

He believes he can predict that the Congress will do the Italian cause no great good and no great harm. "Time is working for its advantage," he said no later than yesterday to a friend of his; "two things have become impossible already—the restoration of the Dukes and the recovery of the Romagna by the Pope. If Central Italy remains firm and tranquil in its position of annexation it will be impossible in other quarters to prevent it for any length of time. It is only we Italians who know, in fact, what it is we really do want. And, therefore, amidst all the difficulties of my task, I esteem myself, at all events, fortunate in this, that my proposal will be most simple and immutable. Let the wish of the peoples be gratified. Should thereupon the Congress require a fresh demonstration by the inhabitants of Central Italy of their firm and general will, I neither can nor ought to oppose it. Any other proposal will be contested by me." "Some one," observed the friend, "may propose the sale of Venetia: what would be your conduct then?" "Ah, then," replied the illustrious statesman, "my resolutions would have to be modified. If the Austrians quit Italy, her destiny will be arranged in a more pleasant way by diplomacy; but I hold any cession of the sort illusory; nor can I believe that Austria will ever listen to good sense, or be induced to give up Venetia by any arguments save those of cannon. Be that as it may, one proposal will assuredly be laid before the Congress, and that is, the creation of a central kingdom detached from Piedmont, to consist of Tuscany, Modena, and the Romagna. France will be the chief mover and supporter of this project, and I believe England will not oppose it. It may so happen that I shall be left alone in my position to it, but then I shall be backed by the Italian peoples, whose desire for the annexation will be firm. Before such a proposal can be carried, they will have at least to break through the principle of non-interference."

THE DUCHIES AND THE ROMAGNA.

M. Farini, Dictator of Modena, has published a decree introducing the Sardinian codes into Romagna from the 1st of May next. By another decree its territory is divided into provinces, circumscriptions, and communes, on the Sardinian system. A third decree grants pensions of 30*l.* per annum to the Romagnese unable to work in consequence of wounds received during the late war.

The *Modena Gazette* of the 28th ult. publishes a notice to the effect that all persons emigrating from the Papal States may be naturalised at Modena, on their formally declaring where they intend to establish their domicile, and producing a certificate to prove that they have never been prosecuted for the commission of any crime.

Several friends of Mazzini have suddenly been arrested in Tuscany on suspicion of continuing to conspire against the annexation party in power.

"Our Florence correspondent," says the *Nord* of Brussels, "informs us that the new municipal council of Florence, which is to meet during the first week of 1860, will be called upon to vote several important measures, one of which is a loan of twenty millions, to be repaid in forty years, intended to restore order in the finances of the city, which suffered greatly from the Austrian occupation."

The official journal of Bologna announces that the Dictator, after having, as is known, decreed the expulsion of the Jesuits from the provinces of Parma, Modena, and the Romagna, has appointed a commission charged to take possession, in the name of the Government, of all the property of the company. The journal adds:—"The commission has already commenced taking possession; and its proceedings encounter no obstacle, and are effected with perfect regularity; they will soon be completed in all the provinces."

THE MORTARA CASE.

The inquisitor, Father Edetti, at Modena, has been arrested by order of the Provisional Government, charged with having ordered the kidnapping of the boy Mortara, for which act he is to be prosecuted before the civil tribunals.

THE WAR IN MOROCCO.

A GREAT BATTLE seems to have been fought before Ceuta either on Saturday or New-Year's Day. It is said that the Moors were 40,000 strong, but that is probably an exaggeration, as the Moorish levies can scarcely yet have reached that extreme point of the empire. General Prim commanded the Spaniards, and claims the victory. The Moors are described to have lost 1500 men, the Spaniards 400 to 600. An attack was made by the Moors on Friday, the 30th ult., and repulsed. On the previous day the Spanish squadron burnt and blew up the forts at the mouth of the river of Tetuan, the same which the French pretended to have blown up before.

Moorish accounts represent the action of the 12th ult. as a more serious affair than the Spanish official notice of it would lead us to infer in this conflict, as in the preceding ones, both sides claim the victory.

The following is a history of the affair as given by the Moors:—"At an early hour a division of the Spanish army (Prim's corps, as we learn from the Spanish statement) advanced to a place called Merso del Fneedak, which is about five miles distant from Ceuta, and on the sea-shore. Here they commenced the construction of works, apparently with the object of establishing themselves at this point. A body of about 7000 infantry and 150 horse, under the command of Kaid Abbas Emkish, Governor of Rif, was immediately detached from the Moorish army for the purpose of attacking the Spaniards and dislodging them from the position they had taken up. In this the Moors assert that, after a sharp struggle, they were successful; that they drove the Spanish forces back upon their positions before Ceuta; and that reinforcements sent out by the Spanish General failed to arrest the retreat until the Spaniards had reached the Serrallo. The works at Merso del Fneedak were destroyed, the sandbags emptied, and the bags carried off to the Moorish camp. In its main features, as regards the actual movements, this account does not vary much from that we have received from Ceuta; in the latter it is admitted that Prim's corps, after making an advance, retreated upon the Spanish positions, with the object, it is alleged, of drawing the Moors within range of the Spanish artillery. There are violent discrepancies as to the killed and wounded. The Moors give their own loss as fifteen or sixteen killed and about forty wounded, and allege that the line of retreat of the Spaniards from Merso del Fneedak to the Serrallo was strewn with Spanish dead. The Spanish account represents their killed at four, and wounded forty-six, and the losses of the Moors as immense.

The Moorish account of the affair of the 15th ult. is not so favourable to themselves, but it would appear from it that no advantage was reaped on either side; the Moors give their loss as six men killed and fifteen wounded.

On the 17th ultimo there was another engagement, in which the Spaniards lost between thirty and forty men killed and wounded. The Moors caught a wounded Spanish soldier who had been overlooked by his comrades. The latter missing him hurried back to his rescue, and drove away the Moors just as these had cut off his head; which, however, they were in too great haste to carry off. "It is positively stated and believed in camp," says the *Times* correspondent in the Spanish camp, "that the Moorish Emperor grants a dollar for every head, and four for every live Spaniard brought in. We are not aware that any four-dollar premiums have yet been gained. The galley slaves, who

have been armed and who fight desperately, and have had a good many killed and wounded, have been promised a dollar for every live Moor they bring in, and they go out of nights on the prowl in hopes of captures. Although the much higher price offered by the Moorish Government for living than for dead would serve to indicate a desire to humanise the war, it has hitherto been carried on entirely without quarter. The Moors began in that way, with a system of pitiless slaughter, and the Spaniards have been exasperated almost to ferocity by this, and now scrupulously follow their example. Hitherto we have not brought in a single prisoner. A very few have been made, and killed by the soldiers before they got into camp, at which General O'Donnell was very wroth. The soldiers say that the Moors will not let themselves be taken; that they fight desperately until killed; and this is very likely to be the case in the majority of instances, but it is difficult to believe that some captures, although only of men wounded, might be made. The Moors, they say, lie down and will not rise, and their obstinacy provokes a bayonet thrust. They might, one would think, be bound hand and foot and carried in, and it is not impossible that useful information might be extracted from some of them. Mercy in war is not, however, one of the most conspicuous qualities of Spaniards; and, moreover, there are tales and traditions current of horrible cruelties which the Moors are in the habit of inflicting on the enemies who fall into their hands; and, in fact, the war has at this, its outset, assumed the most sanguinary and ferocious character."

A correspondent says the action of the 25th was one of the sharpest encounters since the commencement of the campaign. A brilliant charge was made by one of the Spanish Generals (name not given), who jumped from his horse, seized a musket, and led his men against one of the Moorish positions, which he took at the point of the bayonet. Thirty-eight Moorish dead were found on the spot. The Spanish loss was reported as six killed and thirty wounded.

A telegram from Madrid, dated Jan. 2, says:—"Three vessels sailing under the English flag, and carrying contraband of war, have been brought from Ceuta to Algeiras."

A letter of the 17th ult. published in a Spanish paper states that the casualties in the army of Africa, since the commencement of the campaign, amounted at that date to 6000; but of these it is calculated 1500 will soon return to join their corps. The road to Tetuan was getting on rapidly, and it is said that, as soon as the siege train arrived, the army would march on that city, leaving General Orozco's division in charge of the earthworks on the heights of the Serrallo.

The *Epoca* announces that the strength of the army in Africa is to be raised to 80,000 men. This will leave a respectable force to operate, after garrisoning the redoubts, forts, and other advanced lines.

THE HARPER'S FERRY TRAGEDY.

The execution of Cook, Copeland, Coppie, and Green took place at Charleston on December 16. The vigilance of the authorities had somewhat relaxed since the execution of Brown, and an escape was attempted. Two men were observed getting on the gaol wall, and were fired at by the sentinel. They gave themselves up, proving to be Cook and Coppie. They had succeeded, after two weeks' labour, in cutting through their iron shackles, and also in removing the plaster from the wall, and then brick after brick, until a space sufficient for them to pass through was opened. The bed being pushed against the wall completely hid their work from view. The bricks they took out were concealed in the drum of a stove, and the dirt and plaster removed in the course of their work were placed between the bed-clothing. When freed from their shackles their access to the yard was quite easy. Here, however, was a smooth wall, about fifteen feet high, to scale. This difficulty was overcome by the aid of the timbers of the scaffold on which Brown was hung, and which was intended for their own execution. They placed these against the wall, and succeeded in reaching the top, from which they could easily have dropped to the other side had not the vigilance of the sentinel checked their movements. The scaffold was surrounded by soldiers on the morning of the execution, which was witnessed by a crowd five times as numerous as that which witnessed the death of Brown. At half-past ten Green and Copeland were executed, about an hour before Cook and Coppie. The poor fellows are all represented to have worn an appearance rather of hopeless despair than of resignation.

We may notice here a meeting held in New York on the 19th of December, under the banner of "Justice to the South." This meeting was "large and influential." For a fortnight a manifesto had been circulating in the city, and had received an immense number of signatures. The purport of this document was to express attachment to the Union and condemnation of Abolitionist excesses. The meeting was crowded and enthusiastic, cheering to the utmost the strongest passages in the speakers' orations. It had the concurrence of the first men in the Union, letters expressing sympathy with its objects having been received from no less than three ex-Presidents—Mr. Van Buren, Mr. Fillmore, and Mr. Pierce. We may take the assembly to have represented pretty closely the prevailing opinion of New York, the largest, richest, and most influential city in the Union—the city which, being equally removed from New England and from the Cotton States, may be considered to afford a fair sample of average American opinion.

What, then, was the tone of the meeting held in this Free-State city? What was the "justice" which the speakers demanded for the South? One would suppose, after the demonstrations at Boston, that the apologists of the slaveowner would be dumb. But, unhappily for the effect of the Abolitionist campaign at Harper's Ferry and Boston, the speeches of the New Yorkers were "Pro-Slavery" to an extent which must startle the most indifferent. So far from showing indignation at the doings of the Virginians, or even excusing the existence of slavery in the old apologetic fashion, the orators at this meeting roundly defended the institution on natural, moral, and scriptural grounds. After a preamble which recited the various federal Acts giving the Slave States a right to the support of the Government at Washington, Mr. Brooks moved the first resolution, defending the existence of involuntary servitude by its practice in the Roman Empire at the Christian era, uncondemned by the founder of Christianity or his apostles, and by the fact that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are all represented to have been owners of slave property. The Bible nowhere condemns slavery. "The Bible, then, is not in conflict with the Constitution." Mr. O'Connor followed, and compared a gentleman who hissed him to the serpent which beguiled Eve. He considered that the equality of the negro was as impossible as the morality of the Mormon. "As a white nation we made our Constitution, and we made our laws, vesting political rights in that race, the white American people." The negro we left, so long as the community in which he lived should be pleased to order, in the condition of a bondman. (Applause.) Now, gentlemen, to that condition the negro is assigned by nature. (Bravo!) applause, and "That's so!" He has strength, and is potent to labour; but the nature which created the will denied him both the intellect to govern and the willingness to work. (Applause.) Both were denied him—both were denied him! And that nature which deprived him of will to labour gave him a master to coerce that will, and to make him a useful servant in the clime in which he was capable of living, both for himself and for the master who governed him. I maintain that it is not injustice to leave the negro in the position in which nature placed him, to give him a master to govern him. . . . Nor is it depriving him of any of his rights to compel him to labour in return, and afford to that master a just compensation for the labour and talent employed in governing him, and rendering him useful to himself and to the society in which he lives. . . . We are not to talk about slavery being an evil. . . . We are to look at it by the voice of inspiration which is to be found in the sacred volume, and which nowhere condemns the bondage of those who are naturally fit for bondage."

This is a fair and sufficient specimen of the sentiments declared at this meeting, and in which ex-Presidents are found to sympathise.

In Russia there appeared in 1858 1377 original works, 284 translations and 165 periodicals. The number of books imported into Russia from abroad amounted to 1,614,874 volumes, being 1012 more than in 1857.

IRELAND.

THE POPE.—The *Dublin Evening News* is able to make us acquainted with the reception by the Pope of the address of sympathy adopted at the meeting at the Dublin Rotunda. Not that the Pope penned or directed any words in reply; but his Holiness was "exceedingly gratified and consoled by its perusal, and recognised in its expressions the spirit of fidelity and devotedness towards the centre of Catholic unity which is the proud characteristic of Ireland." Cardinal Antonelli also expressed himself delighted with the address, and "examined it most minutely, and greatly admired the beautiful form in which it was printed." A somewhat more remarkable statement follows—that is to say, remarkable if true—for we are next told that "the proceedings of the Rotunda meeting had given the greatest satisfaction in the Eternal City."

LORD DERRY'S TENANCY AT DOON.—The *Limerick Reporter* announces that the Earl of Derby has withdrawn the notices to quit their holdings which his Lordship caused to be served upon several of the tenants on the Coogey estate, in Tipperary, after the murder of Mr. Crowe.

SAD BOAT ACCIDENT.—On the 20th ult. eight fishermen embarked in a boat at Ballycastle for the purpose of proceeding to sea on a fishing excursion. They had not gone far from the shore when the boat was struck by one of the large waves usual on that boisterous beach, and the eight occupants of the ill-starred boat were cast into the sea. Two of the number succeeded in gaining the land, but the remaining six were lost.

ARMING THE IRISH.—It is announced, without any circumlocution, that a Government circular has reached Cork authorising the formation of a volunteer corps, to be composed of the civil servants in the employment of the Crown, such as Custom House, Excise, and Post Office officials. It is added that invitations have been given to parties in public employment, such as those of telegraph and railway companies and banks, either to associate themselves in a corps, or, if not sufficiently numerous, to join such a body as might be formed by the civil servants.

SCOTLAND.

NEW-YEAR'S DAY.—The first day of 1860 being Sunday the usual aspect of New Year's Eve and Day at Edinburgh was considerably affected by the fact. On Saturday night the only demonstrations observable were, in the first place, by the weather, which grew lachrymose towards midnight—mourning, of course, the departing year; and, secondly, by a few knots of people collected at the street-corners, who, as twelve o'clock struck, by somewhat feeble cheers hailed the advent of 1860. The police had little to do—certainly not more than when 1858 breathed his last. On Sunday a heavy rain, which continued all the forenoon, prevented many from stirring out, but the weather cleared up in the afternoon. The day was observed much as any Sunday is observed till about ten o'clock in the evening, when the desire to make holiday so far began to overcome the habitual reverence for the Sabbath that snatches of song and noisy exclamations broke from groups gathered here and there in the streets. At Glasgow about forty people congregated at the Cross on Saturday night, and, as the last chime of the clock ushered in the new-born year, attempted to raise a cheer, the faintness of which showed that this mode of demonstration is in a state of dissolution. Here, too, there does not seem to have been so much drunkenness as usual on this day in Scotland.

THE PROVINCES.

TERRIBLE BOAT ACCIDENT.—There is lying in the Mersey, between Tranmere and Rock Ferries, one of the White Star line of packets, called the *Grand Trianon*, with Government emigrants, bound for Adelaide, Australia. The vessel had been lying in the Birkenhead Dock, and had been brought into the river, as is usual, before her rigging and other works were completed, and several riggers, lumpers, and other working men were employed on board getting her ready for sea. On Friday week Thomas Mackay, a boatowner, went with one of his boats (said to be one of the largest on the river), having on board Thomas Groo (his mate) and two others, to the *Grand Trianon*, for the purpose of taking the riggers and others to Liverpool. According to Mackay's belief some thirty people got into the boat—a greater number than he felt justified in taking—and he complained that there were too many on board. However, all retained possession, and among them was Captain Henry Clarke, of the *Grand Trianon*. The boat left the ship's side, deep in the water, shortly before four o'clock, and rowed for the Cockle-hole, near Brunswick Dock. A stiff west breeze was blowing, and a strong ebb tide running. When the boat had reached opposite the Brunswick Dock, about 200 or 300 yards from the pier, she was struck by a wave, and the water coming in created some little confusion among those within her, the effect of which was to cause the boat to lurch, when she became partially filled. The confusion increased, and she lurched a second time, "and went," to use the words of one of the survivors, "right from under them," and the whole who had been in her were instantly struggling for life in the water. Two boats from the shore immediately made for the scene of the accident, and succeeded in picking up Captain Clarke and two others. Another man was saved by a life-buoy being thrown to him. All the others, so far as is yet known, were drowned. The boat, though filled, did not go down, and her owner (Mackay) saved himself by remaining in her.

INCENDIARISM.—Within the last few weeks there have been three incendiary fires on the farm of Mr. Dickinson, of Humbleton, near Hull. First, the corn-stacks were set on fire, and the whole, excepting three, were destroyed. On Monday week the stable was discovered to be in flames, and several valuable horses were injured. The third fire occurred on Friday week, when the three remaining corn-stacks were consumed.

WELL DONE.—In the village of Noke, near Islip, the Duke of Marlborough has a farm of about 110 acres. The tenant died a few years ago, leaving a widow and four daughters in very humble circumstances. The widow kept on the farm, the operations on which, even to ploughing, sowing, harrowing, and manuring, were performed by herself and daughters; and in this way they struggled on. But year by year they lost ground, and, in spite of all their efforts, the arrears of rent accumulated to nearly £200. There was stock enough on the farm to meet this deficiency, if sold, but then the widow would have been left destitute. At length her landlord offered to forego the arrears due to him on leaving the farm. The stock was sold, and realised about £250; so that, after paying some little claims, the widow left the farm with about £200 to commence a new career.

FALL OF A HOUSE IN SALFORD.—At Salford, on Sunday morning, while a man named Rowbottom, his wife, and four children were in bed, the front of the house in which they lived gave way and fell, carrying the whole of the roof with it. The bedroom floors fortunately did not give way, and, ladders being obtained, the family were rescued without injury.

ABANDONMENT OF A PROPOSED MONUMENT TO SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—Two years ago it was proposed to erect in the city of Lincoln a monument to Sir John Franklin, who was a native of the county. The sum of £1500 had been promised to the object, and it was intended to have erected a mechanics' institution, with a Franklin museum attached. The Corporation approved the scheme, and promised a grant of £1000 for the purchase of a site in the parish of St. Swithun. But to carry out the scheme a footpath across a public square would have to be diverted; and the parish resolved to keep their footpath and lose the institution. The parish was polled, and resolved by a majority of twenty-nine to keep the footpath; consequently the scheme drops. The money subscribed is to be returned to the donors less the expenses incurred.

HURRICANE IN WILTSHIRE.—A terrible storm of thunder, lightning, hail, rain, and wind broke over the neighbourhood of Calne on Friday week. It appears to have been a regular tornado, having a curvilinear motion, and travelling at a rapid rate. At Quemerford, Charhill, Yatesbury, and the neighbourhood, hundreds of trees were torn up by the roots or broken, ricks scattered, cottages and farm buildings unroofed—and that all in a few minutes. The turnpike roads were impassable for some time afterwards. We are happy to add that, amidst all this destruction of property, no life was lost.

ELOPEMENT AND ROBBERY.—Elizabeth Thomas, the wife of a tavern-keeper in Swansea, fell in love with Charles Holloway, a photographic artist and concert-singer. After an intimacy of a few months the guilely couple disappeared, taking with them thirty or forty pounds in gold and silver, several watches, spoons, &c., &c. They also obtained ninety pounds from the Swansea savings-bank, by means of an order purporting to be from the injured husband. A few days ago Holloway and Mrs. Thomas were arrested in London, conveyed to Swansea, and there charged with the robbery and forgery. They were committed for trial.

ALLEGED MURDER OF A SEAMAN.—A seaman named Lorenson has made deposition before the magistrates of Hull to the following effect:—"That he belonged to the Dutch schooner *Maria*, lately arrived at Hull from Marseilles. That Fritz Lausman, a lad sixteen years of age, and cook on board the *Maria*, had been beaten to death by the captain and mate. Lausman had never been to sea before, and was beaten for the ignorance of seaman'ship he displayed. On one day he received ten lashes, then twenty, then forty, and then eighty. The day before he died they tied his head between his legs. They then put a piece of wood behind his neck, and another behind his knees, then tied both pieces of wood together, having first made the deceased bend double. In this state they drew him about the deck, and the mate threw chains upon him. On ten or twelve different days he was treated in this way, sometimes twice a day, remaining so tied for half an hour, and sometimes for an hour. At length, while working at a pump, he fell insensible, and died next morning; his face was then so swollen with blows that it could not be recognised. The Danish Consul and the Collector of Customs at Hull have been corresponded with by the magistrate, and the case is to be further inquired into."

TWO EXECUTIONS FOR MURDER.—John Kingston was executed at Warwick on Friday week for the murder of his wife at Coventry. The convict had on the previous evening stated his intention of addressing the spectators from the front of the place of execution, and made several attempts to speak whilst the rope was round his neck. The crowd rushed forward, and made a noise. He then turned to the head turnkey, and said, "They will not hear me. I hope it will be a warning." The bolt was then drawn.—The execution of Charles Normington, for the murder of Mr. R. Broughton, near Leeds, took place at York on Saturday. Since his trial the prisoner confessed that he committed the murder, but said that another man stood by. He got the deceased's watch, and gave it to the other man, who kept it until they arrived at Leeds, and he (Normington) then went to pawn it. The other man was a stranger to him.

SUSPICIOUS DEATH AT BOSTON.—On the 8th of December a woman named Jane Jackson died at Boston from some complaint which completely baffled the medical men. In consequence of this a post-mortem examination was made, but nothing discovered. Subsequent events, however, have made the idea of death by poison seem more probable, and the body has been examined. A coroner's inquest was held and a portion of the intestines sent to Professor Taylor. The inquiry was adjourned until the 23rd instant.

GOVERNOR FARINI AND THE INQUISITOR.—When it was represented to the late Sir Charles Napier in India, by certain Brahmin authorities, on the occasion of a suttee about to be solemnised, that the promoters of this *auto de fe* had a law for it, which commanded observance, old Eagle-beak made answer thereto, "We also have a law that demands observance. You say you have a law for burning widows—well and good; burn your widow by all means. But we have a law for hanging murderers; so, pending your suttee solemnity, I shall erect a gallows, and, as soon as the former is satisfactorily celebrated, I shall hang you up on the latter!" We do not hear that the performance came off as announced. And we think it exceedingly probable that if Rev. Inquisitor Fietili had foreseen a Buoncompagni regency he might have been somewhat more shy of "kidnapping a child," as that irreverent *regime* terms it. Think of a "dog Jew" getting human justice against a father inquisitor! In Germany, to this day (we certify the fact, however incredible it may seem to our readers), when a Jew comes into a court of justice as a witness, he is addressed by the presiding Judge as "*Verfluchter Jude!*"—"Accursed Jew!"—as a gentle invitation to state what form of oath he will hold binding on his accursed conscience.—Globe.

COMMERCIAL WANTS OF JAPAN.—A letter from the Hague says:—"We have received interesting letters on the commercial and political situation of Japan from merchants established in the port of Kanawaga. They state that the articles most in demand are tissues of all kinds; cotton prints, calicoes, flannels, camlets, and grey buckskin with small stripes sell best; then small-patterned chintz, woolen cloth, Utrecht velvet, red, blue, and cherry colour; red shawls with blue insides; cotton and woolen blankets. Saffron is in demand, and medicinal substances, especially Peruvian bark, magnesia, &c. Glass wares and looking-glasses are sought after, but it is feared that importations will be too extensive; the same may be said of gin. Loaf sugar would sell to advantage, imported in moderation, as would also elephants' tusks. Olive oil, tin plate, and Prussian blue are wanted. Of fancy articles only the more useful should be sent. Sail-cloth and colours (white, black, and yellow) find purchasers; the Japanese using black the most. At present beer, wine, and butter are only wanted for victualling ships, but the natives will probably soon acquire a taste for them. The Government readily purchase muskets, but the Japanese are not allowed to keep fowling-pieces. Good barometers are the only philosophical instruments wanted. Cheap watches sell well. Good Dutch books also find buyers. It is not difficult to procure back cargo. Most kinds of food are cheap and sell readily in China. Indeed, many English vessels come from Shanghai in ballast on purpose to fetch provisions. Japanese wax is not dear, being 45 francs per 50 kilogrammes, or less on buying a large quantity. Copper is also a good article to export. The exportation of the gold coin called kobangs is permitted, but the Government does not like to see it leave the country to any amount."

GENERAL ECHAGUE.

GENERAL D. RAFAEL ECHAGUE, recently created Lieutenant-General by the Queen of Spain, was born at St. Sebastian, on Feb. 13, 1815. A youth at the time of the outbreak of the civil war, he entered first the national militia and afterwards the army, where his military genius drew upon him the attention of O'Donnell, whose Adjutant he became. In 1854 he took part, under the latter General, in the movement at Vicalvaro, and was the only brigadier commanding a regiment who remained faithful to O'Donnell. His loyalty was not forgotten; and, at the first opportunity, he was made Adjutant-General and Governor of Valencia.

Recently nominated to the command of the first corps of the expeditionary army to Morocco, it was General Echague who opened the campaign by the capture of Serrallo, in the neighbourhood of Ceuta. In the combat of the 25th ult. he greatly distinguished himself by his personal bravery. Seeing a regiment pressed by an overwhelming force, and wishing to disengage it, he galloped into the thickest of the fight. In a few minutes his horse was killed under him and himself wounded in the hand. Leaping to his feet, and disregarding his wound, he seized a musket, like Ney at the retreat from Moscow, and fought shoulder to shoulder with his men.

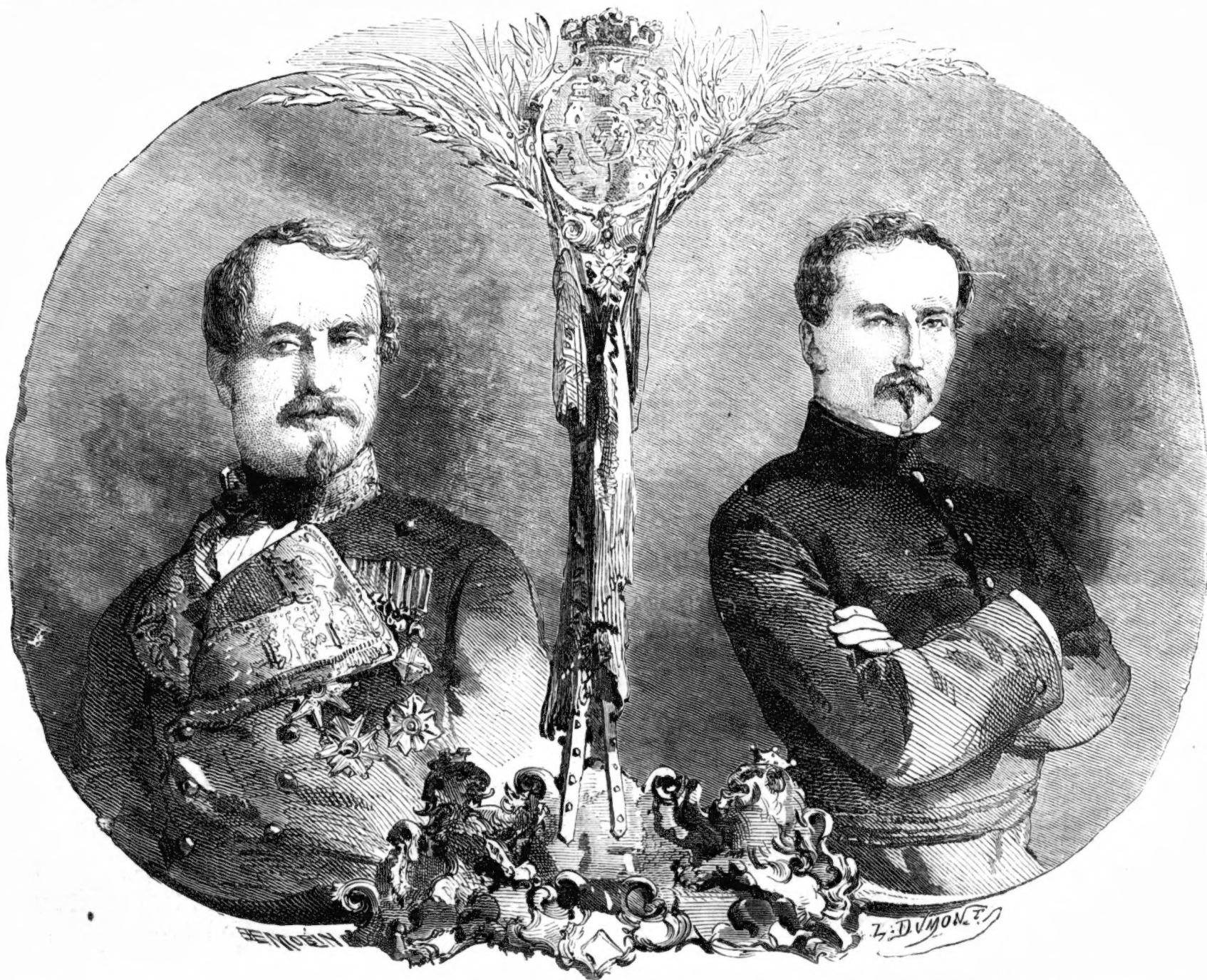
General Echague has been wounded in nearly all the actions in which he has taken part, and once or twice most seriously during the civil war. Loved by his soldiers for his bravery and frank disposition, this General, still young in years, was most worthy first to unfurl on African soil the ancient banner of the Cid and Gonsalvo of Cordova, and to inaugurate by his chivalrous courage the present struggle with the enemies of his race.

EMBARKATION OF THE 3RD DIVISION OF THE AFRICAN ARMY AT MALAGA.

The embarkation of this division, under the command of the General-in-Chief, Ros de Olano, and Generals Quesada and Taron, took place on the afternoon of the 11th ultimo. It commenced about two p.m., and, to the surprise of every one, at half-past four o'clock the 12,000 men were all embarked on board eighteen steamers, which got under way at five precisely, and proceeded to Ceuta. Great credit is due to the Staff for the admirable arrangements made by them and their excellent management, not one single accident, however trifling, having occurred. The day being beautiful and clear, not a cloud to be seen, and as mild as in the month of June, the Alameda and Mole were crowded, all the population being desirous to witness so unusual and brilliant a sight. Rich silk draperies were suspended from the balconies, and, notwithstanding the exciting music of so many military bands, the spectacle was affecting. The embarkation was watched in silence, broken occasionally by sighs, and a heartily expressed "*A Dios!*" as an acquaintance was recognised; but when the gun was fired as a signal for sailing the report broke, as it were, the magic spell by which all tongues were bound, and loud and hearty vivas burst forth from thousands of throats, both ashore and afloat, the bands playing the Royal March. The soldiers looked healthy, and were well provided for in every respect. Some days previous to the departure of the troops some thousands of copies of the following address were printed, for distribution among the troops on landing in Africa:—

GENERAL ROS DE OLANO'S ADDRESS TO HIS SOLDIERS.
We are now treading the soil of Africa. In wars of invasion every day's march is a conquest, and resistance in battle is victory. Let us never retreat, never press forward rashly, but always together. Let us receive the shock of the enemy's cavalry with the immovability of a fortress vomiting fire, that he may turn and fly, and let us return with our rifles the attack of his infantry, which is ignorant of the use of a cartridge. Let us march steadily and sleep lightly—the first to enable us to arrive without fatigue, and the second that we may awake ready to find each one his post, his front, and his aim. Let the conquered be spared, the women respected, the children succoured, and let us not stain our conduct with vile deeds of robbery and plunder. In order to conquer—in Africa as in the whole world—we have only to display more valour and more generosity than our opponents. In this manner our campaign will be fortunate in its commencement and secure in its results. We are now beginning. Let each one answer for himself as I answer for you all. ANTONIO ROS DE OLANO.

In another illustration the embarkation of the mules and muleteers accompanying the division is shown. The Spanish army is exceedingly well served in respect to means of transport, for no animals serve the purpose better than mules, and of these they have an abundance. Their drivers are, also, a hardy, enduring class of men, accustomed to long and toilsome marches over their own sierras, and are consequently well fitted for the conduct of a baggage-train.



MARSHAL O'DONNELL, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE SPANISH ARMY IN MOROCCO.

GENERAL ECHAGUE, COMMANDING THE 1ST CORPS OF THE SPANISH ARMY.

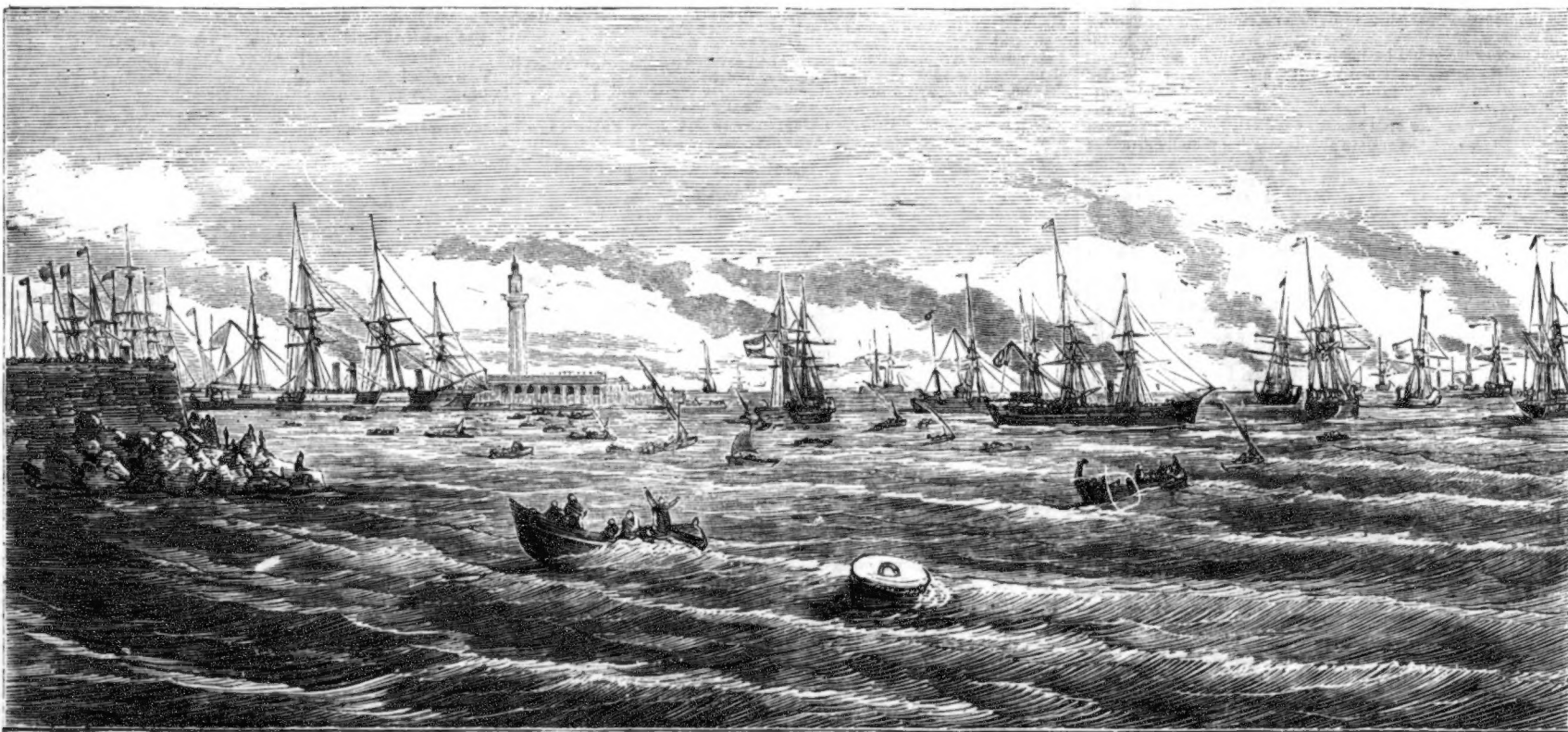
MARSHAL O'DONNELL.

LEOPOLD O'DONNELL was born in 1808. Made Colonel at the early age of twenty-five, he greatly distinguished himself, after the death of Ferdinand VII., in the ranks of the Constitutional army, and forced Cabrera, a partisan of Don Carlos, to raise the siege of Lucena, an exploit which gained for him the rank of Lieutenant-General and the title of Count of Lucena. His unshaken fidelity to the person and cause of Maria Christina compelled him, after the abdication of the Queen Mother, to seek refuge in France, where he remained during the Regency of Espartero. On the fall of the latter, in 1843, he was nominated to the Governorship of Cuba, whence he returned in a brief period to take his seat in the Senate. As a statesman he made himself famous by his unceasing opposition to the Ministry of Bravo Murillo. Under that of Narvaez he held the post of Director-General of Infantry. It was O'Donnell who gave battle to the Royalist troops at Vicalvaro,

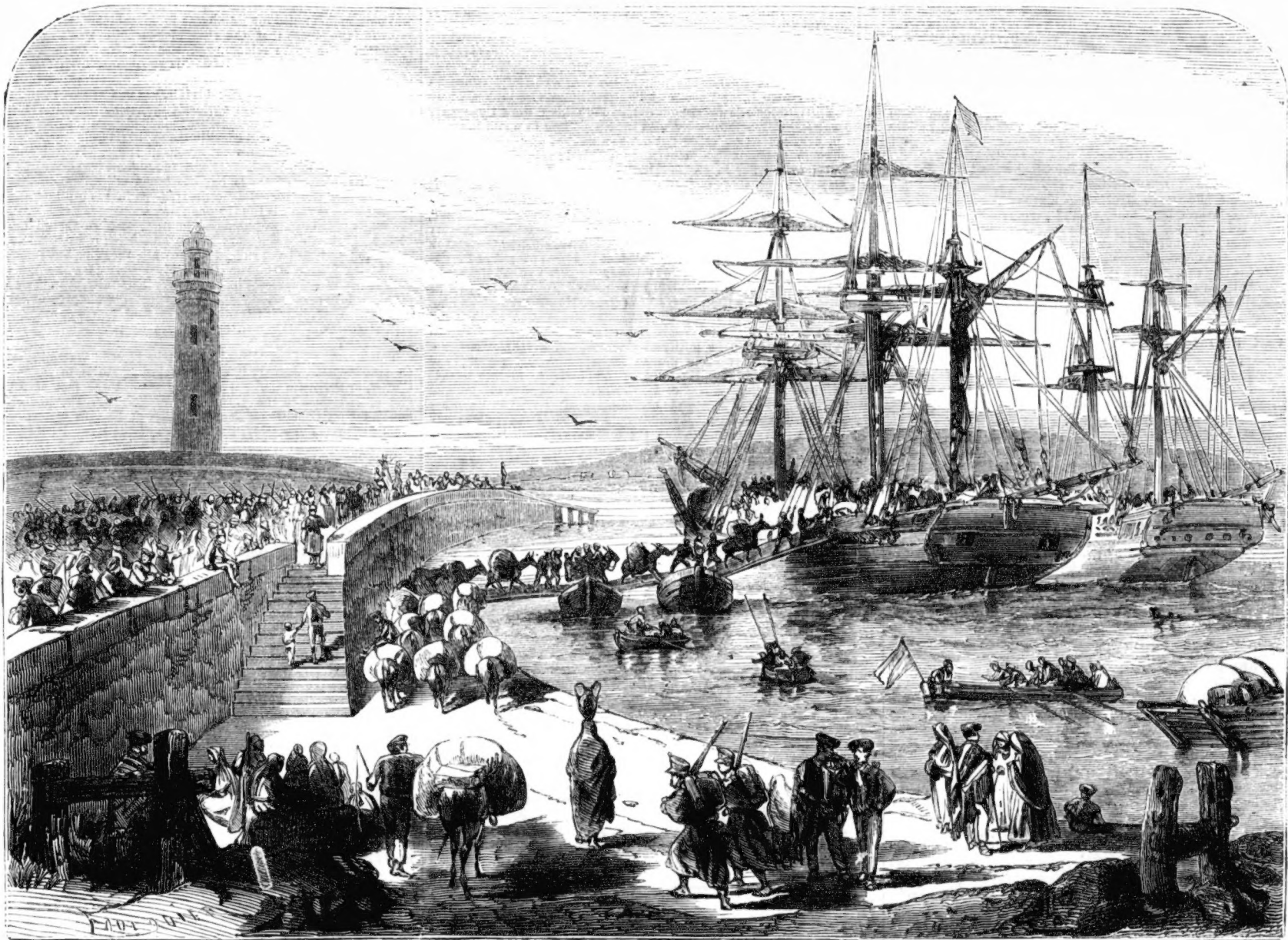
and who issued the celebrated proclamation demanding the re-establishment of the Constitution of 1837, &c., &c. The Queen, obliged to dissolve her Ministry, gave the presidency of the Council to Espartero, and the portfolio of War to O'Donnell, who kept it till October, 1856. It was now that he brought all his ability and energy to bear against Marshal Narvaez, then in power—an ability that caused the downfall of the latter and the advancement of himself. It is to Marshal O'Donnell that Queen Isabella has confided the chief command of the Spanish forces in Morocco; and, in the estimation of both officers and troops, no better choice could have been made.

The Marshal is thus described by a correspondent who lately saw him in camp:—"Outside of the tent is standing, regardless and apparently unconscious of the heavy rain, a tall, greyhaired man, seemingly about fifty-five years of age, dressed in a waterproof coat and macintosh leggings, the only military part of his costume being the

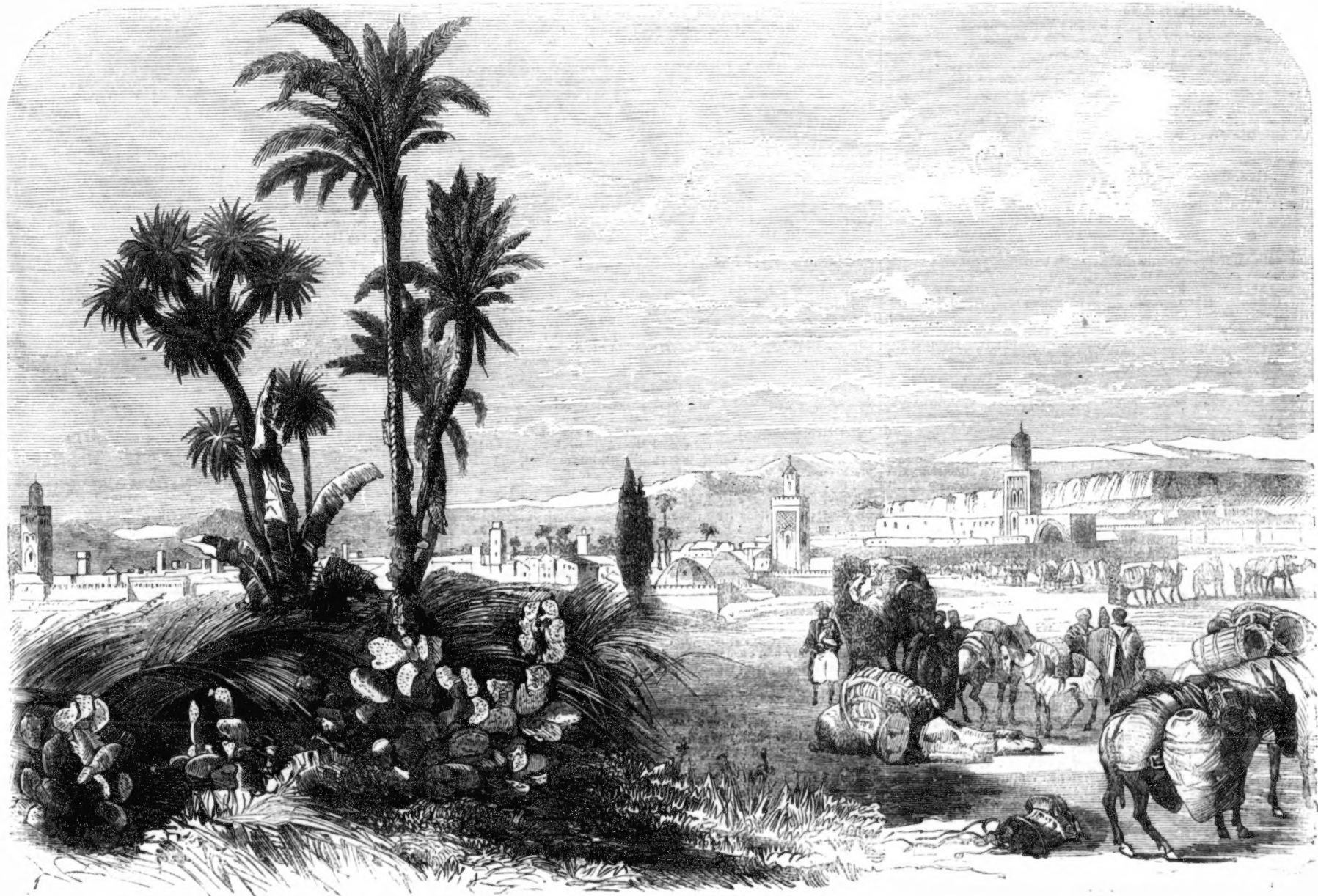
'ros' or Spanish kepi, with three bands of gold embroidery round it, indicating the rank of Captain-General, equivalent to Field Marshal. His head is rather bent, the expression of his countenance is severe, but at the same time not without a certain bonhomie. His brow is somewhat furrowed, but less, you would say, by years than by the cares and anxieties, the vigils and fatigues, of an active, eventful, and ambitious career. His step is firm, and when, as sometimes happens, it suddenly lengthens almost into a stride, you perceive that he still retains no small share of the vigour and elasticity of youth. This is Leopold O'Donnell, Count of Lucena, the Spaniard, of Irish descent, who is now by far the first man in his country, who possesses a power confirmed by its duration (rare for a Spanish Premier of late years), and which certainly has the willing support of a greater majority of the nation than any of his predecessors for many years past could reckon upon."



THE 3RD DIVISION OF THE SPANISH ARMY LEAVING MALAGA FOR MOROCCO.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. THIARTE.)



EMBARKING MULES AND STORES FOR THE SPANISH EXPEDITION IN THE HARBOUR OF MALAGA.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. YRIARTE.)



THE CITY OF MOROCCO.

THE CITY OF MOROCCO.

MOROCCO is the capital of the kingdom so called, and the residence of the Sultan. In the year 1052 the city boasted of 100,000 houses and more than 700,000 inhabitants; but, owing to the constant civil wars during the last four centuries and the gradual decay of the Mohammedan empire, it has lost much in importance, and its population has decreased to less than 36,000. The city has a stately appearance, with its lofty walls and numerous watch-towers, which have a circumference of nearly nine miles. The interior, however, belies the exterior, for most of the houses are in a ruinous state: large buildings are entirely deserted, and grass and rank weeds grow in its streets and squares, where formerly the chivalry of the East, that chivalry that has left so many traces in Spain, rode proudly with the crescent on high. The mosques, of which there are more than a hundred, are falling rapidly to decay. The principal one, El Kolubijeh, was built in the twelfth century, and its minarets tower to a height of 220 feet.

That portion of Morocco which is still inhabited has all the characteristics peculiar to most Oriental cities. The streets are narrow and tortuous, and the houses—constructed so that the windows overlook the courtyards—present bare walls to the thoroughfares. Many of these sombre lanes are roofed over, and all are exceedingly dirty.

A considerable amount of business is transacted in the town in silks and leather, the last of which articles has a world-wide fame, and is named after the city that exports it. The Sultan's residence, situated without the walls, is a long, low palace, strongly fortified, for he has almost as much to fear from his subjects as from his enemies.

LETTER FROM THE POPE TO HIS FRIENDS IN IRELAND.

The following is a translation from the Latin of the reply of the Pope to the late address of the Roman Catholic Bishops of Ireland:—

"TO OUR VENERABLE BROTHER PAUL, ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN, ETC.

"To our venerable brother and dearly beloved sons, health and our apostolic benediction. Nothing could be more agreeable, nothing more lovely, than your letters bearing date the 3rd of November last, and lately delivered to us, which brought to us very great consolation amid the deep sorrows with which we were borne down. For everywhere throughout these letters there shines forth wonderfully your singular faith, piety, love, and reverence towards ourselves and the chair of Peter; everywhere your bitter grief displays itself at the tribulations into which we are plunged by the wicked designs and endeavours of those men who wage most fierce war against the Catholic Church, the apostolic throne, and the patrimony of St. Peter; and who are endeavouring to destroy the foundations of all Divine and human right. We could not but be greatly delighted by these excellent sentiments of yours, which, worthy of all praise as they are, have raised to the highest point our paternal love towards thee, venerable father, and you, beloved sons. Do not cease to pray and beseech the Father of all Mercies with still more earnest supplication that He will snatch his Holy Church from so many calamities, and daily magnify and adorn it with more splendid triumphs; and assist and console us in all our tribulations; and that He will deign, of His omnipotent goodness, to lead back all the enemies of His Church and of this Apostolic Throne to the paths of truth, justice, and salvation. We doubt not, venerable brother and beloved sons, but that you, by the aid of the Almighty, desire nothing more than to perform with still greater zeal and earnestness all those duties which, fulfilled thoughtfully, wisely, and zealously, may so greatly conduce to the defence of the cause of God and of His Holy Church, to the salvation of souls, to the exposure of the deceits and the refutation of the errors of wicked men in this time of special iniquity. Be assured that the feeling of our paternal mind towards yourselves is equally warm and devoted. As a most certain pledge whereof receive our apostolic benediction, which from our inmost heart, full of love, we bestow on thee, venerable father, and on you, beloved sons.

"Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, the 1st of December, 1859, in the fourteenth year of our Pontificate. "PIUS P.P. IX."

PRO-PAPAL MEETING IN LONDON.

An "indignation meeting" of Roman Catholics, most numerous attended, was held in the Hanover-square Rooms on Tuesday evening—Mr. Richard Keeley acting as chairman. There could not have been fewer than 2000 persons present. The greatest unanimity, approaching often to enthusiasm, was evinced by the audience (a considerable number of whom were women) throughout the whole proceedings, which lasted several hours. The platform was almost as crowded as the body of the hall, but there were few if any persons of note among either the Roman Catholic clergy or laity upon it. Letters expressing sympathy with the object of the meeting were read from the Roman Catholic Bishops of Birmingham and Shrewsbury, and "the Vicar Apostolic of the Northern District of Scotland;" also from the Rev. Canon Oakley, Lord Feilding, the Hon. Charles Langdale, &c.

Mr. H. J. Prendergast, who said it was his pride to have been one of the original founders of the Catholic Association, moved the first resolution:—"That the temporal power of the Pope had been the source of numerous blessings to mankind, by the extension of the Catholic faith, the diffusion of knowledge, and the promotion of the arts and sciences." He said the meeting had assembled there as Catholics, having no personal or anti-national feelings to indulge, but simply to protest against a coercion which was most injurious to their religion, pregnant with mischief to society at large, and which even Protestants, if they understood their true interests, ought to resist. The resolution was seconded by Dr. Hille, who contended that the Pope had exercised his temporal power most discreetly, religiously, and humanely, and that his great fault in the eyes of English Protestants was that he had, in fact, no fault at all. The motion was carried by acclamation.

Mr. Brett moved a resolution to the effect that although, as Catholics, they firmly believed the spiritual authority of the Pope not to be of necessity dependent on his temporal power, they yet considered the diminution of such temporal power would be detrimental to the established Government and injurious to the best interests of religion. This motion he supported in a long speech, contending that the question was one that deserved to be discussed fairly, logically, and loyally, and in a manner superior to "the hackneyed diplomacy of a Palmerston, the placid insidiousness of a Russell, and the strategy of Napoleon III." The Pontifex Maximus of the press and all the minor stars laboured in vain when they sought to dissociate the temporal from the spiritual power of the Pope—that temporal power being a divine adjunct of the spirituality—and to rail at Catholicity, which had given them their laws, their institutions, and all that they held dear in civilisation. The spiritual power of the Pope was not a political system or a floating idea; it was an eternal and immovable principle, an article of faith, and the gift of God. This resolution, seconded by Mr. Young, was carried with perfect unanimity.

Then, on the motion of Mr. James Burke, it was resolved that, as London was the source whence emanated so many attacks on the Pope, they deemed it the special duty of the Catholics residing there to express their sympathy with his Holiness in an address. This resolution was supported by Signor Giannini, whom Mr. Burke introduced to the meeting as "a real live Italian from Rome," and who, in a speech of very good English, defended the humane and enlightened manner in which the Pope dispensed his temporal revenues in works of charity and in the spread of religion and education. The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. Harper, who formerly held high preferment in the Established Church, and during whose speech Mr. T. A. Malone, a lecturer on chemistry and a Catholic, who had ventured to say the Pope would be freer in Ireland than in Rome, received some very rough usage, indeed, at the hands of some violent partisans near the door. He was struck violently in the eye, forced from the room, and lost his hat in the mêlée. It was subsequently resolved that the address be forwarded, for presentation, to the Pope to the care of the Cardinal-Archbishop of Westminster.

DEATH OF LORD MACAULAY.

LORD MACAULAY died at his residence at Kensington, on the 28th ultimo. He had been suffering for some years from a complaint of the heart; he was a martyr also to asthma; and the severity of the present winter brought on about a three weeks ago a severe illness, from which he was, indeed, thought to have recovered, but a relapse came suddenly, and he expired.

He was the son of that excellent man, Zachary Macaulay, whose honoured name is inseparably connected with the anti-slavery movement of the beginning of the century.

He was born in 1800. The first of his long series of distinctions and honours were those he won at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his Bachelor's degree in 1822. Very high were those early honours; and thenceforth many eyes were upon him to watch the next turn of a career which could not but be a marked one. He obtained a fellowship at Cambridge, went to Lincoln's Inn to study law, and was called to the Bar in 1826. His first recorded speech was made in 1824, at an anti-slavery meeting, which being exceedingly eloquent brought on him the laudation of the *Edinburgh Review*, and the scoldings of the *Quarterly*—the former being the organ of the abolitionists, and the latter of the West India interests—at that time very fierce from excess of fear. The *Edinburgh Review* placed the speech of this promising young man above all that had been offered in Parliament. This was, however, the last occasion, or nearly so, of the young orator appearing as one of the abolitionist party. In the same year he presented himself as a poet, in *Knight's Quarterly Magazine*; and not long after obtained high credit for his fine translation of Filicinia's "Ode on the Deliverance of Venice from the Turks." The versification was pronounced to be loftily harmonious, and worthy of Milman. Thus had he already taken ground as an orator and a poet; and in 1826 he reaped his first fame as an essayist, in his article on Milton, in the *Edinburgh Review*. There was promise enough in this article to add the qualification of essayist to his other claims to high expectation. Parliament was to be his next field; and to Parliament he was returned in the first days of Reform, becoming member for Calne in 1832, and for Leeds in 1834. He was rendered independent in the first instance by his office of Commissioner of Bankrupts, given him by the Grey Government, and then by being Secretary to the India Board.

In Parliament his success at first did not answer to Ministerial expectation, though it was a vast gain to the Administration, when their unpopularity began to be a difficulty, to have Macaulay for their occasional spokesman and constant apologist.

"The drawback," says the writer of a clever biography in the *Daily News*, "was his want of accuracy, and especially in the important matter of historical interpretation. If he ventured to illustrate his topic in his own way, by historical analogy, he was immediately checked by some clever antagonist who, three times out of four, showed that he had misread his authorities or, more frequently, had left out some essential element, whose omission vitiated the whole statement or question. It was this fault which afterwards spoiled the pleasure of reading his essays in the form of reviews. Very few could singly follow him in his erudite gatherings of materials; but the thing could be done by the united knowledge of several minds; and those several minds found that, as far as each could go along with him, he was incessantly felt to be unsound, by the omission or misstatement of some essential part of the case. When this was exhibited in regard to his early Parliamentary speaking, the defence made was that he was yet young; and he was still spoken of by the Whigs as a rising young man, and full of promise, till the question was asked, very widely, when the 'promise' of a man of two or three and thirty was to become fruition. It was not for want of pains that his success was at first partial. Those who met him in the Strand or Lincoln's Inn in those days saw him threading his way unconsciously, looking at the pavement and moving his lips as in repetition or soliloquy. 'Macaulay is going to give us a speech to-night,' the observer would report to the next friend he met; and so it usually turned out.

"In 1834 he resigned his office and his seat in Parliament to go to India as member of the Supreme Council of Calcutta to frame a code of law for India. It was understood that his main object, favoured by the Whig Ministry, was to make his fortune, in order to be able to pursue a career of statesmanship for the rest of his life. Ten years were talked of as the term of his absence, but he came back in three, with his health considerably impaired, his code in his hand, and a handsome competence in his pocket. The story of that unhappy code is well known—a great sum of money was spent upon it, and it turned out wholly worthless.

"After his return in 1838 he was elected by Edinburgh on his making the avowal that he was converted to the advocacy of the ballot, household suffrage, and short Parliaments. For a moment the genuine Reformers believed that they had gained the most eloquent man in Parliament to their cause; but it was not for long. He did not become a Radical any more than Peel or Melbourne. When appointed Secretary-at-War, the year after, he turned out rather more than less aristocratic than other Reformers to whom fate affords the opportunity of dating their letters from Windsor Castle, when sent for to attend a Council.

"This was the time of his greatest brilliancy in private life. As a talker his powers were perhaps unrivalled. It was there that he showed what he could do without the preparation which might, if it did not, ensure the splendour of his essays and his oratory. At the dinner-table he poured out his marvellous eloquence with a rapidity equalled only by that of his friend Hallam's utterance. He talked much, if at all; and thus it was found that it did not answer very well to invite him with Jeffrey and Sydney Smith. Jeffrey could sit silent for a moderate time with serenity. Sydney Smith could not without annoyance. Both had had three years of full liberty (for they did not interfere with each other) during Macaulay's absence; but he eclipsed both on his return. After some years, when his health and spirits were declining, and his expectations began to merge in consciousness of failure, he sometimes sat quiet on such occasions, listening or lost in thought, as might happen. It was then that Sydney Smith uttered his celebrated saying about his conversational rival:—'Macaulay is improved! Yes, Macaulay is improved! I have observed in him of late . . . flashes—of silence.' Meantime he was the saving genius of the *Edinburgh Review*, then otherwise likely to sink prone after the retirement of Jeffrey. The splendid historical, biographical, and critical presentments of Macaulay were the most popular literature of the day; and they raised to the highest pitch the popular expectation from his History. A 'History of England' by Macaulay was anticipated as the richest conceivable treat; though some thoughtful, or experienced, or hostile person here and there threw out the remark that, as his oratory was literature and his literature oratory, his history would probably be something else than history—most likely epigrammatic criticism. But those who were best aware of Macaulay's faults were carried away by the delight of reading him. As an artist we are under deep obligations to him; and in his own walk of art—fresh and open to the multitude—he was supreme.

"In 1842 he published his 'Lays of Ancient Rome.' In 1847 he was excluded from Parliament by his rejection at Edinburgh, on account merely of a theological quarrel of the time. The citizens compensated this slight as far as they could by promoting his election to such Scotch honours as could be conferred upon him—such as being chosen Lord Rector of Glasgow University, and, on the death of Professor Wilson, in 1854, President of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution. He was sorely missed in the House, though his speaking had become infrequent. When at length he returned with new literary honours accumulated on him, the eagerness to hear him showed what the privation had been. From the courts, the refreshment-rooms, the committee-rooms—from every corner to which the news could spread that Macaulay was 'up' the rush was as if for a matter of life or death. Meantime, while he was in this Parliamentary and official abeyance, he brought out what were called the first volumes of his History, neither he nor any one else having any doubt that the rest, up to the reign of George III., would follow regularly and speedily. The beauty of the book exceeded expectation, and its popularity was such as no

book had met with since the days of the Waverley novels. Of praise and profit Macaulay had his fill, immediately and tumultuously, and openly and heartily he enjoyed it. But the critical impeachments which followed must have keenly annoyed him. Failing health added its dissuasive to industry. He became subject to bronchitis to a degree which rendered his achievements and his movements uncertain. He was once more elected for Edinburgh in his absence, and it was on his return to the House that the rush to hear him was so remarkable a spectacle. He spoke seldom, and men felt that their opportunities would henceforth be few. Before his retirement from the House of Commons in 1856 he was the mere wreck of his former self. His eye was deep sunk, and often dim; his full face was wrinkled and haggard; his fatigue in utterance was obviously very great; and the tremulousness of limb and feature melancholy to behold. In 1857 he was raised to the Peerage—a graceful compliment to literature.

"Macaulay's was mainly an intellectual life, brilliant and stimulating, but cold and barren as regards the highest part of human nature. As in his History there is but one touch of tenderness—Henrietta Wentworth's name carved upon the tree—so in his brilliant and varied display of power in his life the one thing wanting is heart. Probably the single touch of sensibility was in him, and we should find some bleeding gashes, or some scars in the stiff bark, if we were at liberty to search; but hard and rugged it was while throwing out its profusion of dancing foliage and many-tinted blossoms. It was a magnificent growth; and we may accept its beauty very thankfully, though we know it is only fit for ornament, and not to yield sweet solace at present nor perennial use. If we cannot have the man of soul, heroic or other, nor the man of genius as statesman or poet, let us take him as the eloquent scholar, and be thankful."

The funeral of Lord Macaulay will take place in Westminster Abbey on Monday next, January 9, at one o'clock. He is to lie in Poets' Corner, or the south transept of the abbey—at the foot of Addison's statue, and close to the grave of Isaac Barrow. The historian will not lie far off Camden—almost the father of English history—nor far from what remains of May, the historian of the Long Parliament, and near to the remains of Johnson, Garrick, Sheridan, and Gifford. He will lie facing the statue of the poet of "The Pleasures of Hope," at whose funeral the noble historian helped to bear the pall.

OBITUARY OF 1859.

DEATH'S doings among the aristocracy during the year now drawn to a close have been more than ordinarily numerous. Out of the members of the Peerage of the three kingdoms there have died the Duke of Leeds, the Marquises of Waterford and Bristol; the Earls of Rothes, Aylesford, Ripon, Charleville, Ferraers, Devon, Moray, Tankerville, Cathcart, Harborough, De Grey, Minto, Jersey (two), Westmoreland, Waldegrave, and Camperdown; the Bishop of Bangor, Viscount St. Vincent; and Lords Northwick, Holland, Macaulay, and Hastings (total, twenty-six). Of the above titles, the earldom of Harborough and the baronies of Holland and Macaulay are the only ones that have become extinct. Of the Baronets there have died during the same period the following, twenty-two in all:—Sir James Ramsay, Sir Chaloner Ogle, Sir John Newport, Sir John Nugent, Sir Henry Shiffner, Sir E. B. Perrot, Sir Harry Dent Goring, Sir Isaac L. Goldsmid, Sir Henry Meredyth, Q.C., Sir Michael Cusac Smith, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, the Rev. Sir Charles Farnaby, Sir Robert W. Vaughan, Sir George T. Staunton, General Sir John Slade, Sir James Grant (of Monymusk), Sir John Hay Williams, General Sir Robert H. Cunliffe, Admiral Sir Henry L. Baker, and Sir Robert Alexander. Of the above the titles of Newport, Farnaby, Vaughan, and Staunton have become extinct. The knightage, during the same period, has lost the following of its members:—Sir T. Isaac H. Curteis, Sir James Piteairn, M.D., Sir W. H. Thornton, General Sir Alexander Leith, Sir Anthony Oliphant, Sir Richard Grant, Sir J. A. Murray (Lord Murray in Scotland), Sir John Lewes Pedder, General Sir Joseph Thackwell, Sir Arthur Ingram Aston, General Sir James Russell, General Sir J. Law Lushington, Admiral Sir David Dunn, Sir William Norris, General Sir William Eyre, the Right Hon. Sir James Stephen, Sir George Goodman, Sir Thomas Tassell Grant, Sir F. S. Darwin, Sir Frederick W. Trench, Sir William Carpenter Rowe, Sir James B. Macaulay, and Sir Richard B. Crowder (twenty-two in all).

In the House of Commons there have died during the same period Lord James Stuart (Ayrshire), Mr. W. T. Fagan (Cork), Mr. Robert Stephenson (Whitby), and the Right Hon. Henry Fitzroy (Lewes).

Amongst other titled personages whom death had carried off we ought to mention more particularly the Duchess of Cleveland, the Marchioness of Sligo, the Countess of Harrowby, the Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone, Sydney Lady Morgan, Lady Delamere, the Dowager Lady Blakett, the Dowager Lady Hunter Blair, Lady Blantyre, the Hon. Mrs. J. E. Boscawen, the Dowager Lady Peel, Lady Eleanor Butler, the Hon. and Rev. Thomas Cavendish, the Countess of Courtown, Lord W. R. Keith Douglas, the Hon. and Very Rev. H. D. Erskine (Dean of Ripon), the Hon. Mrs. W. E. Fitz-Maurice, the Hon. J. W. Fortescue, the Hon. Mrs. H. T. Howard, the Hon. Mrs. E. Jerningham, Lady M'Caskey, the Hon. Lady Mahon, the Hon. and Rev. E. F. Nelson, Lord Henry Seymour, the Dowager Countess of Norbury, the Hon. J. C. Fox-Strangways, Lady O'Connor, the Hon. and Rev. W. O'Grady, the Hon. Mrs. B. Paget, Lady Helena E. Robinson, the Dowager Lady (Charlotte) Suffolk, the Hon. Edward Wingfield, the Hon. Major Pellew, and the Hon. Mr. E. Young.

In the literary, religious, and scientific world we have to regret the loss of very many great names besides Macaulay and Stephenson—Henry Hallam, Isambard K. Brunel, Thomas De Quincey, Washington Irving, W. H. Prescott, T. K. Hervey, Mr. Johnson (the Radcliffe Observer at Oxford), Mr. W. J. Broderip, Humboldt, Dr. Lardner, C. R. Leslie, R.A., Joseph Sturge, Mr. D. W. Mitchell, R. Pashley, Q.C., Leigh Hunt, the Rev. John Mitford, Professor Nichol, the Rev. J. Angell James, Principal Lee, Dr. Chandler (Dean of Chichester), Dr. Peacock (Dean of Ely), Baron Pennefather, and the Bishops of Antigua, New Jersey, and Sierra Leone. The most eminent name which strikes us as not included under any one of the above heads of division is that of General Jacob.

GARIBALDI'S MARRIAGE.—The Paris correspondent of the *Globe* says:—"You will have remarked that General Garibaldi has not contradicted his marriage (indeed, such a step would have recognised the right of quinquages prying into simple domestic affairs), but letters from Como reiterate the statement, the day named being the 15th of January. His son has already married the young daughter of Count Raimondi, aged sixteen. The widowed General marries the elder daughter, aged twenty, who is described as endowed with the attributes Scott depicted in Diana Vernon."

STATISTICS OF SAVINGS BANKS.—A series of returns, moved for by Sir Stafford Northcote in the House of Commons, on the 15th of April last, relating to savings banks, and prepared under the direction of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, were printed on Saturday. From these it appears that the total amount owing to depositors, in England and Wales, on the 24th of November, 1858, was £31,767,062 5s.; in Ireland, £1,804,163 6s. 11d.; in Scotland, £1,960,609 10s. 1d.; and in the British Islands, £415,505 14s. 1d.; making a grand total in the United Kingdom of £35,547,340 16s. 1d. It also appears that the total number of offices was 1877, of whom 621 were unpaid, and 1256 paid. The amount of security by the latter was £336,530; and by the former, £381,820. The salaries and allowances of the paid officers amounted to £288,184; and the annual expenses of management, exclusive of the latter class of payments, to £121,125. The total number of accounts open on the 24th of November, 1858, was £1,398,583.

UNIVERSITY LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.—An important meeting of schoolmasters was held on Tuesday for the purpose of considering the whole question of university local examinations. The feeling of the meeting was favourable to the joint action on the part of the two Universities, and also to the holding of but one examination annually, and that to take place at all the centres simultaneously. It was further recommended that the Universities should take in turns the examination of senior and of junior candidates, that proficiency in religious knowledge should receive the same marks as other subjects, and that every junior candidate should be at least in his fifteenth year.

Literature.

Now or Never. A Novel. By M. BETHAM EDWARDS, Author of "The White House by the Sea." Edmonston and Douglas.

Miss M. B. Edwards dedicates this ingenious novel to her "cousin and friend, Amelia B. Edwards," whose name is familiar to our readers; and, curiously enough, it has exactly the same peculiarity, by defect, as the novels of that lady. It is not easy to describe that peculiarity. It lies deeper than the style (which, however, is too loosely articulated), but it does not reach to the very pith and staple of the book. Shall we say the *handling* appears too light for the weightiness of the moral? That the author carries a burden of grave thoughts intelligently, indeed, but with a mien and gait that lack intensity? So it seems to us, and precisely the same impression is made upon us by the writings of Miss Amelia Edwards.

The lesson of this very clever story is that life is now, and not yesterday or to-morrow. As there is plenty of loveliness in the book, and one of the heroes misses the girl he loves by not proposing in time, this lesson easily lends itself to ridicule in the shape of "propose without delay;" but that is not the teaching of the book, which has as keen an eye to living in the past as to vacillation and living in the future. The characters are, some of them, well sketched. Mr. Honeychurch, the antiquary, is a lay figure; so is Dr. Ray, the grave, energetic physician; so is Annette—though the author has, we dare say, taken great pains with them. But Matty, Betie, Agatha, and Count Korvinski are very clever portraits. There is some genuine humour scattered up and down the book, and the conversation-pieces are capital.

Tom Winter, steward to the rich and gorgeous Count Max Korvinski, on a visit to England, is in love with his little country-bred cousin Bertha Greene, who more than half smiles on his pretensions. But he does not come up to the scratch as vigorously as he might do, though, to our thinking, he is not slow. However, the *beaux yeux* and carnal splendour of the Count have time to make an impression; and, one night, just at the crisis of Tom's wooing, the Polish individual steals an astounding march upon him, proposes in a hurried whisper, is accepted, takes formal possession on the spot, and, in short space, marries Betie. Tom takes this so uneasily, and so disturbs his conscience by insisting upon the unfair points in his procedure that already his "happiness" is clouded, and he grows sullen and dull with poor, "insignificant" Betie, who has, notwithstanding, become passionately fond of her husband. Now enter Agatha Sherlock, to whom Count Max shall lose his head, and his weak, good-natured blasé beauty. It is done, and an elopement planned. Betie discovers it; Agatha is disgraced; Max goes into a brain fever and dies; and Tom and Bertha do not marry. This Agatha also stands between Annette Honeychurch and Dr. Ray, and is altogether a very difficult person; but these two lovers meet at last, and, deprecating in mutual disgust at the past, the treatment of life as either "a regret or a promise," agree to "take kindly to the present," and disappear up the beach, where they have met, saying "Now or never," and looking out, we suppose, for a sheltered cove in which to sit and arrange the day. This gives some idea of the story.

At first sight, apropos of Bertha and Tom, one is ready to ask, if the girl so readily parted with a strong impression bordering on love to the rude though dazzling attack of an interloper, is it in human nature that she should be so fond of her husband as she is represented to have afterwards been? But we think a little reflection upon what one has seen of life will give an affirmative answer to this question, which touches the most doubtful point in the novel. We have all seen the like; and when an intelligent woman puts down such a thing of another woman we are bound to suppose that she knows what she is doing. Perhaps the fault of Mr. Honeychurch is overwrought. This educated gentleman, when young, courts an ignorant girl for a time, but, directly she comes in contact with his friends and her want of culture stands out in relief, they are both a little *désillusionné*, differ, and part company. In all probability this, in a real case, would be the best and most merciful thing for such a couple; but here Mr. Honeychurch's conduct is magnified into a base desertion, and he is made to do a lifelong penance. This exaggeration and a certain spiteful zest with which Agatha Sherlock is handled would alone be sufficient to stamp the sex of the author. "Now or Never" is a capital story, to be read without skipping, and containing some subtle observation of life. The author will excuse us for noticing that, whereas she says on page 409, of Dr. Ray, that "only scorn mingled with his memory of Agatha," she says on page 410 that that excellent person, "like an original English thinker (!), never despised anything that wore human shape."

Dramatic Reminiscences; or, Actors and Actresses in England and America. By GEORGE VANDENHOFF. Edited, with Preface, by HENRY SEYMOUR CARLETON. Cooper and Co., and J. C. Hotten. This is one of the most amusing books that has come into our hands for a long time. Mr. Vandenhoff is, for an actor, a very superior man, tells anecdotes well, and says really sensible things. His career is a curious one. In 1839 he was a solicitor at Liverpool—solicitor to the trustees of the Liverpool Docks, which was a very respectable and, as Mr. Vandenhoff mentions and we happen to be able to confirm, a very paying position. All his life he had been guarded by his father from theatrical associations, and nothing appeared less likely, certainly, than that a prosperous attorney should make a dash at a new, dangerous career at an hour's warning. But so it befel. Mr. Vandenhoff had a misfortune—something which lay nearer the heart than the pocket, he says; and to save his reason, or to prevent the total collapse of his energies, he determined to plunge into a new and exciting pursuit. He did a wiser and better thing than committing suicide or shooting somebody; and the principle of his conduct is widely applicable, and strongly to be recommended to disappointed people.

One sleepless night Mr. Vandenhoff made up his mind. Next morning he rose early, took the express train, offered himself to Madame Vestris, and was engaged at £8 a week on the spot! With this, of course, the prestige of his father's name had much to do; and, in fact, he had not studied a single part, or in any way prepared himself for his new career.

He went back to Liverpool, resigned his post, sold off, and, amid the to-be-expected hue-and-cry of "ruined! lost his senses!" came back to London, where, within three weeks of his resolve, he made a triumphant start in Leon in "Rule a Wife and Have a Wife," at Covent Garden Theatre.

Having played Leon five times in London, he actually had the audacity to go back to Liverpool, and play five nights there; which he did "with considerable éclat," pocketing £211 by the adventure. This sum, however, says Mr. Vandenhoff, was almost entirely exhausted in providing costumes for Duke Aranza, Julian, St. Pierre, and Faulconbridge.

This was Mr. Vandenhoff's start in theatrical life. His career is within the recollection of us all; and he has now been admitted to practice at the American Bar, intending, we suppose, having married an American lady, to end his days in the United States. These memoranda of his career contain references to Madame Vestris, and some few others which might have been (according to English notions) better suppressed; but they manage these things differently in America, where Mr. Vandenhoff's tastes have been in part formed; and, after all, it is very difficult to know what one may say and what not.

In the very centre of Mr. Vandenhoff's book there is an episode called "Coralie" which is a bit of real out-and-out "romance," such as you do not often meet. In performing at the S— Theatre Mr. Vandenhoff found, in the Virginia to his Virginias, a "Miss Coralie Walton," who was beautiful, correct, studious, graceful, ladylike, modest, and altogether a paragon. She had a "mystery;" came from London; never would hear of going back thither, though possessing charms, talents, and all that would have made her fortune there. Coralie manifested extraordinary signs of emotion in playing, got ill, spat blood, and altogether bewildered Mr. Vandenhoff's sympathies. Then comes a love story. A Mr. Lionel

Ransom, the son of an officer, fell in love with her, and went upon the same boards in order to be near her. At the time she was being persecuted by a coxcomb, whom Ransom thrashed. Having done her that service, and made love in due course, the young man asked her to be his. She consented, but insisted that he should first see her mother. Ransom found that person in London, and discovered her to be an abandoned woman, from the pollution of whose roof Coralie had fled. In a frenzy of disgust and horror he took ship for America. Once on board, he regretted his precipitation, and wanted to get back to Coralie. But the sea between and a delirious fever held him back. Arrived at New York, he wrote, but the letter was barely finished when he relapsed, and it never reached her hands. It was eventually sent, and the answer—not from her—announced the death of Coralie from a broken heart. Coralie died during Mr. Vandenhoff's stay at S—, and, dying, gave him a packet for her lover. After a long time the actor and Mr. Ransom met. The packet was delivered, and eventually Ransom died at the battle of Buena Vista, fighting as a volunteer in General Taylor's army. Our own interest in this story suffers only one drawback—we do not believe it. But we are of a sceptical turn, and our readers may be more fortunate. The story should, however, be read, as a whole and at length, in Mr. Vandenhoff's very entertaining book, where it forms a sort of *pièce de résistance* amid the chit-chat and scandal that form its bulk.

We may add that Mr. Vandenhoff constantly delivers himself of the most astounding Latin and French that ever came under our notice. His editor has noticed this, and has not had the temerity—for temerity it would have been—to make any alterations, though he has corrected a mistake or two in matters of fact. It should not be omitted that Mr. Vandenhoff gives the usual advice to theatrical aspirants of both sexes, "Go out with baked potatoes, or take in slopwork, but don't go on the stage!"

Aldershotiana; or, Chinks in My Hut. Second Edition. Ward and Lock.

The title of this rattling, rough-and-ready brochure hints at the contents. It is not a young lady's book, by any means; but it is very amusing, and is not empty of useful suggestion in these volunteering days. The anecdotes are not confined to Aldershot, but take in the Mediterranean, the Crimea, and the private adventures of some of the personages introduced. There are some very queer stories of foreign doctoring—one of a Sangrado who set about the cure of lockjaw by "exhibiting," as we say over here, six large tumblers of barley-water! Altogether, "Aldershotiana" is lively reading—for gentlemen only.

Memoirs of a Lady in Waiting. By the Author of "Adventures of Mrs. Colonel Somerset in Caffraria," &c. 2 vols. Saunders and Otley.

We have seen many worse novels than this tale of the times of the second Charles; but it never rises above a pleasant mediocrity, nor does it offer anything in "plot" or otherwise calling for detailed comment. But, by-the-by, chap. ix., vol. i., is headed with the following quotation from "SHAKESPEARE":—

Oh! war! thou hast thy fierce delight,
Thy gleams of joy intensely bright—
Such gleams as from thy polished shield
Fly dazzling o'er a battle-field.

Can anybody tell us where this bit of octosyllabic is to be found in "Shakespeare"? We have read that talented bard, but cannot be expected to remember everything he wrote.

EACH OF THE CREW of the *Fox* has been presented by Lady Franklin with an elegant silver watch, valued at £10, bearing a suitable inscription on the outer case, surmounted by an engraving representing the *Fox* in full sail.

AT A RECENT PERFORMANCE of "THE MESSIAH" in the Free-trade Hall, Manchester, a man in the gallery attempted to snatch some programmes from a boy who was selling them. Failing to do so, the ruffian seized the boy and threw him into the area beneath—a fall of about twenty feet. He alighted on the shoulders of the crowd, and escaped with a pair of black eyes. The man who committed the outrage escaped altogether.

LAW AND ORDER IN TURKEY.—A Constantinople letter in the *Sémaphore* of Marseilles says:—"The numerous robberies and murders which have lately taken place in this city have excited the attention of the police. It having been discovered that the band who committed those crimes resided in a quarter of Pera, in wooden houses communicating with each other by secret passages, the Prefect of Police, at the head of some gendarmes and troops of the line, had the place surrounded. Each of the houses was entered and carefully searched; the band took refuge on the roofs, and opened a fire on the armed force. The fire was returned, and two of the band were mortally wounded; several of the gendarmes were also injured. After a long contest the rest of the band escaped, leaving in the hands of the police only the two who had been struck. All this proves that some severe examples had become necessary, and in consequence a man who had been found guilty of murdering a Servian has been beheaded near the port. His accomplice, a Greek priest, was condemned to fourteen years at the galleys. The body of the man beheaded was left exposed for four hours, with his head stuck on a post beside him. This severity will, it is hoped, operate as a warning to others."

THE FIRST DAY OF THE YEAR.—The ancient Egyptians fixed the beginning of their year at the autumnal equinox, when agricultural labours were resumed after the retreat of the waters of the Nile. The religious year of the Jews begins at the vernal equinox, 20th or 21st of March; their civil year at the autumnal equinox, 21st of September. The Mohammedan year, as it consists of twelve lunar months, begins eleven days earlier every year. Among the Athenians the year began with the first moon after the summer solstice, in the other Greek cities it began at one or other of the equinoxes. Under the first French Kings the year began in March; but in the ninth century the new year was transferred to Christmas. Afterwards there was no uniformity, and every province had its own usages. In some the year began on the 25th of March, in others on the 25th of December; but the greater number followed the custom of Paris, where the year began on the Saturday before Easter, after the consecration of the paschal taper. In 1564 Charles IX. ordered that the year should begin on the 1st of January.

DISASTERS AT SEA.—Since Thursday week another tempestuous south-western gale has swept the coast, and several serious losses have resulted. The barque *St. Henry Pottinger*, 313 tons, laden with silver ore, wool, bark, copper, &c., from Caldera, was totally wrecked yesterday morning week on Calfy Sands, in Carmarthen Bay. The master, with his wife and children, and the crew, with the exception of one man, were saved. It is hoped that a large portion of the valuable cargo may be rescued. About the same time a 2000-ton ship, called the *Britannia*, belonging to Bath, United States, was cast ashore at Barmahau, Landwyne, near Barmouth. She was bound to Liverpool, from Savannah, laden with a valuable cargo of cotton. The captain and crew were saved.—The *Countess of Condon*, belonging to Inverness, went ashore on the Northumberland coast, near to Holy Island, with no one on board. The ship's boat was subsequently drifted up near to Badwell, with nothing in her save an old jacket, which had been put into the plughole. From the ship's log it appears that she passed the Longston light at ten on Friday night. There is every reason to fear that the crew, in taking to the boat, had perished.—A letter from Calais states that an English sloop, the *New Endeavour*, of Dover, foundered off that port in the midst of a violent snowstorm. The crew, consisting of five men, took to their boat, but she upset, and all of them perished.

SLAVES IN JAVA.—The emancipation of Dutch slaves in Java has begun. The plan adopted is modeled on the Act of 1834, which put emancipated negroes in the British colonies on the footing of apprenticed labourers. By a subsequent Act (1 Vic. c. 19) all apprenticeships were to cease after the 1st of August, 1840, but the Colonial Legislatures passed Acts anticipating the day. In Java the apprenticeship is to last for six years, from the beginning of 1860 to 1866, after which date full liberty will be conceded. Owners receive 150 francs for slaves worth 1000 francs each, a rate which is looked on as liberal.

INFECTED PORTS.—It is announced by the Board of Trade that the ports of Spain in the Mediterranean are now considered to be clean and free from disease. Oran is declared to be infected with cholera, while all the other ports of Algiers are suspected of the same. Yellow fever prevails at Gambia, Western Africa, at New Orleans and other ports in Louisiana, at Tampico and all other Mexican ports, and at all the ports of Brazil.

THE ALDERSHOT AFFAIR.—An inquest has been held on the body of James King, killed in the fatal affray at Aldershot last week. The jury returned the following special verdict:—"We find that the deceased was feloniously killed by some person of the 2nd battalion of the 24th Regiment, but by whom we have not sufficient evidence to enable us to determine. At the same time, the jury wish to state that they are of opinion, that no shot was fired by the King's Own or 1st Tower Hamlets Militia."

THE REVENUE.

THE account for the quarter ended Saturday is, like that of the whole year, extremely favourable. Upon a comparison of revenue between the quarter just closed and the corresponding quarter of last year there is an increase of £804,313, and a decrease of £724,141, yielding a balance of increase of £80,172. Our satisfaction with these figures may, perhaps, be momentarily damped when we compare the revenue for the two years, and discover that there is a deficiency of nearly a quarter of a million between the receipts in 1858 and 1859. But to understand whether these figures represent a progress or a retrogression we must look more closely at the circumstances and the items. The only two important articles of decrease are the Income Tax and the Miscellaneous Revenue. The Income Tax has fallen off during the year £1,514,082, but this can be very pleasantly accounted for by the taxpayers, who have that million and a half in their pockets. Unhappily, this is not to continue. The higher scale now rules, but the increase has only to a slight measure come into the public account. It figures, however, to the extent of an increase of £391,000 upon the quarter. The other deficient head—that is to say, the Miscellaneous—shows a deficit of £718,267 on the year, and £683,141 on the quarter. But this also is to be accounted for satisfactorily. It is to be attributed to a cessation in those Tower sales, where "Military and Naval Condemned and Surplus Stores" were bought at auction by gentlemen who sold them again to be sent in under contracts for new. There have been no more boots and saddles and bridles and preserved meats sold at one-twentieth of their value. We have not been selling at a shilling what we had bought at a pound.

But, however satisfactory it may be to know that we have not paid a million and a half income tax, and ceased to sacrifice several millions of Army and Navy stores, still we like to see the usual amount of money made up. It has been made up. Tea, brandy, tobacco, wine, and all other articles of luxury and comfort have been so extensively consumed that the duties upon them have yielded an increase of £732,579 upon the year. This bonus falls to the Customs. Again, spirits and malt and hops have been in greater request. These articles tell upon the Excise, and swell its receipts by an increase of £356,000 upon the quarter, and £1,075,000 upon the year. The Post Office shows an increase of £150,000 upon the year, but upon the quarter there has been a decrease of £30,000. The House Duty and the Land and Assessed Taxes contribute a trifle to the prosperous side of the balance-sheet, and even the Crown Lands cast in an extra £5000. The whole paper has a cheerful air. We are able to feel equal pleasure in the receipts we miss and in the receipts we welcome. The people have been eating, drinking, smoking, snuffing, and reading more than they were wont to do, and have been paying less income tax. The result of all which is that we have got £216,530 less than we got last year, but we shall get more than five times this by the increased income tax now in operation.

This is a very pleasant retrospect, and an encouraging prospect. It is at all times, of course, very important to make both ends meet at the close of the year, but it is now especially desirable. In the year which opened upon us on Sunday morning the whole system of national finance has to be reconsidered. The Income Tax and the Tea and Sugar Duties all expire this year, and must all be laid on again.

CHRISTMAS FARE.—From the 17th to the 24th of December, inclusive, the Eastern Counties Railway Company transported to London:—Fish, 213 tons; meat, 297 ditto; poultry, 243 ditto; oysters, 16 ditto; 11,166 turkeys, 13,660 geese, 1600 pheasants, 560 hares, 650 ducks, 93 sucking-pigs, 1111 oxen, 4111 sheep; 1892 sacks of potatoes, 14,259 sacks of flour; 69 hogs-heads, 1979 barrels, 2159 firkins, 2253 kilderkins, of beer; and 40,916 quarts of milk.

"THE POPE AND THE CONGRESS."—M. Granier de Cassagnac, in the *Pays*, M. Walowski's organ, has been instructed to state that M. de la Guéronnière's pamphlet has been wrongfully interpreted. The pamphlet does not propose to deprive the Pope of the Legation, but advises his Holiness to submit to the present state of things, and proclaims the necessity of maintaining the temporal power of the Pope. M. de Cassagnac adds that the pamphlet confines itself to pronouncing an opinion; the Congress alone will decide, and even after that the Church will remain full and entire.

THE MUTINY ON BOARD THE "PRINCESS ROYAL."—A correspondence has taken place between the Admiralty and Admiral W. Bowles, C.B., Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, relative to certain papers which have been published in connection with the case of the *Princess Royal*. In answer to questions from the Admiralty, Admiral Bowles stated that those papers were published with his sanction, and he at the same time tendered his resignation in case their Lordships disapproved the publication. The Admiralty's resignation has been accepted, and it is probable that Admiral Bowles will be relieved from his command on the 1st of March next.

THE FRENCH BAR.—A scene of the most extraordinary and, I may add, scandalous character has taken place at the Palais de Justice, in the Tribunal of Correctional Police. The case before the Court was that of M. Vacherat, who was prosecuted for the publication of a book called "La Démocratie," the seizure of which I informed you of some time since. M. Vacherat's counsel was M. Emile Olivier, one of the rising and most eloquent men at the Paris Bar, and, moreover, the leader of the Opposition in the Corps Législatif. The Procureur Impérial having concluded a violent and acrimonious speech against the defendant, whose main objective seems to be that he uses the word "despotism" in the course of his work often than was agreeable to the authorities, M. Emile Olivier rose to reply. He had merely said, "I will not follow the example of the public prosecutor by appealing to passions—" when he was stopped short by the President, who informed him that "these expressions were an insult to the public prosecutor, and that he must retract them." M. Olivier refused to retract, and distinctly intimated that the words incriminated could not by any possibility be tortured into an insult, upon which the hearing of the case was interrupted, and the President, after a short consultation with the other Judges, suspended M. Olivier for three months from the practice of his profession. On this decision being made known the whole of the Bar present rose and embraced M. Olivier, who then withdrew. This scandalous abuse of power has created an immense sensation among the Bar. A meeting, I am informed, is to take place to-night at which a protest will be drawn up and signed by all the members of the order of advocates.—*Paris Correspondent of the Express.*

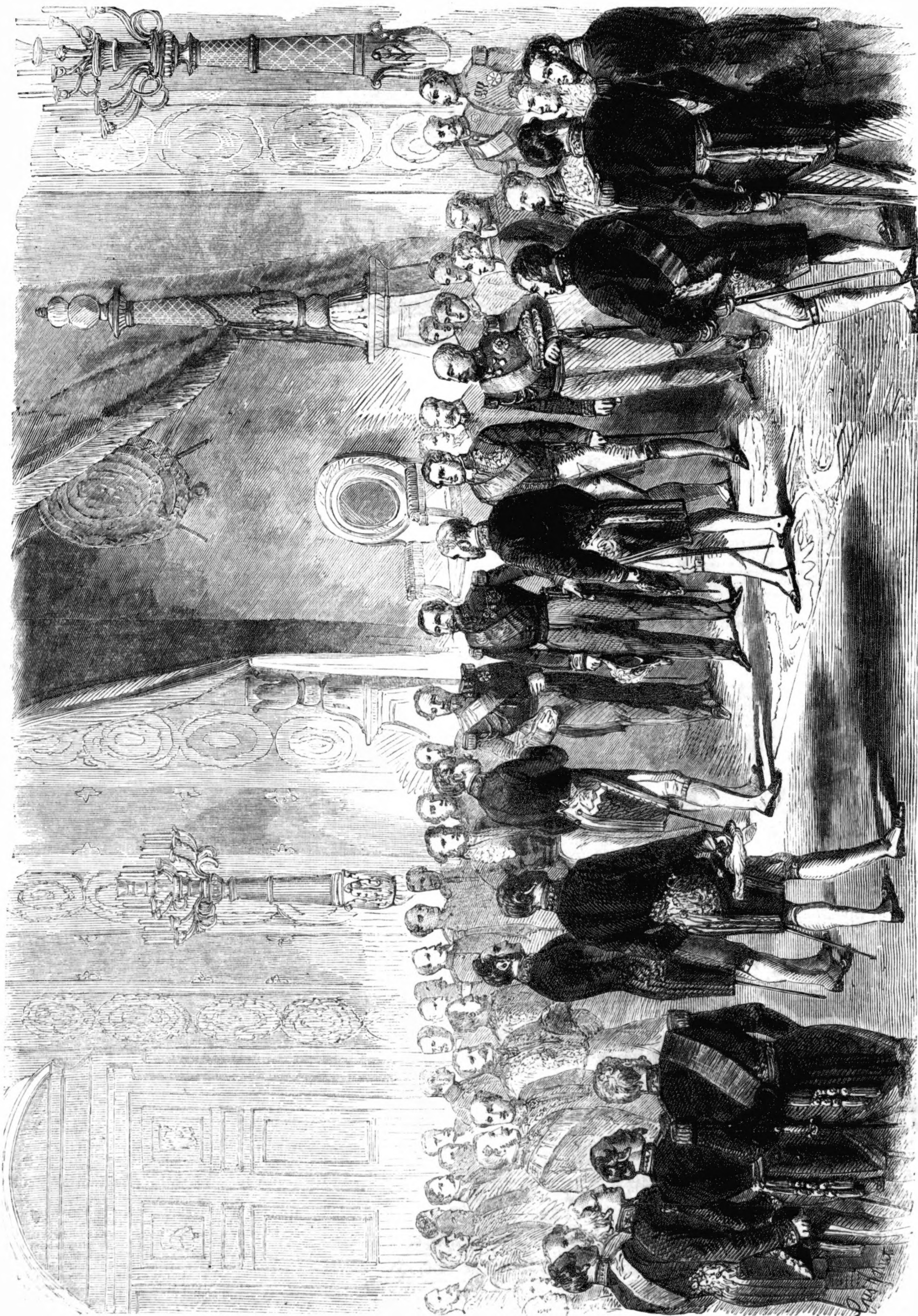
THE "ROYAL CHARTER" STORM.—Rear-Admiral Fitzroy has ascertained that the storm which wrecked the *Royal Charter* was a horizontal cyclone. The area of its sweep was scarcely 300 miles in diameter. While the central portion was advancing northward, at an average rate of twenty miles an hour, the actual velocity of the wind was from 50 to nearly 100 miles an hour. At places westward of its centre the wind appeared to "back" or "retrograde," shifting from east through north-east and north to north-west; while at places eastward of its central passage the apparent change or veering of the wind was from east, through south-east, south, south-west, and west to north-west. From eastern parts of England the central portion of the storm moved northward and eastward, places on the east and north coasts of Scotland having strong easterly and northerly gales a day later than the middle of England. When the *Royal Charter* was wrecked, Elgin and Banffshire were not disturbed by wind. When it blew hard from east to north on that exposed coast the storm had abated, or almost ceased, in the Channel and on the south coast of Ireland.

A MILD RULE.—The *Frankfort Journal*, in its number for December 29, publishes from official sources a mass of Austrian statistics, referring to various departments of the Vienna State machinery. Under the item of "Executions" the document registers:—In 1852, executed (mostly for politics), 328 persons; of which total Venice supplied 118; Lombardy, 113; Hungary, 71. In 1853, hanged or shot, total, 330 persons; of which in Hungary, 129; Lombardy, 93; Venice, 54. In 1854, total executed, 135; of which Hungary, 44; Venice, 19; Transylvania, 17.

THE SPANISH LOAN.—The *Observer* denies that Lord John Russell is for the first time and in a peremptory manner pressing the payment of the debt of £500,000 due by Spain to England. Our contemporary states that Lord Malmesbury first pressed for payment, and that "the correspondence between the two Governments has been continued without interruption ever since."

RECEPTION OF PRINCE METTERNICH BY THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.

THE first official recognition of the Austrian Ambassador by the Court of the Tuileries since the resumption of friendly relations between the two Powers was an exceedingly stately and formal affair. However, the ceremony once over, the Emperor treated Prince Metternich with marked attention, and all kinds of courtly festivities were given in honour of the representative of Francis Joseph. Napoleon III. is making an *amende honorable* for his haughty treatment of the Austrian Envoy this time last year.



OFFICIAL RECEPTION OF THE AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR BY THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.



VIEW OF OVIETO.—(FROM THE PICTURE IN THE TURNER COLLECTION.)

TURNER'S VIEW OF ORVIETO.

Of all the pictures that ever were painted, Turner's are exactly those which tax the skill of the engraver to the utmost in order to give anything like an adequate transcript of the original effect. We have done our best, however, to furnish those of our readers (and they are numerous enough, no doubt) who have never seen the originals, and are not likely to make a journey to London for that purpose, with as good an idea as can be given in black and white of those wonderful works bequeathed by Turner to the nation. This week we add the "View of Orvieto" to the series already published in these pages.

We may congratulate those who do visit the Turner pictures on the improved conditions under which they may now be viewed. The oil-paintings are contained in three chambers at the South Kensington Museum, hung with sea-green; the lighting is excellent, and there is ample room. The pictures have never been seen to such advantage as they now are.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1860.

LORD MACAULAY.

SOME reflections are excited by the loss of this brilliant public man which will be more in place here than in those literary columns to which our readers naturally look for criticism and biography. He was a very remarkable political personage, and of a school which many circumstances tend to make less and less numerous, if they do not even tend to abolish it altogether from our political system. We allude, of course, to the school of literary statesmen, of whom Cicero was the great representative in the classical world; the Churehmen (Lanfrance, &c.) in the middle ages; men like Selden in the seventeenth century, and Burke and Sheridan in the eighteenth.

We are not going to urge that this school is either the highest or the only one required in a State. But what we do say is, that it is an indispensable one, if the service of the State is to be of an intellectual and superior character. Men of business and debaters are imperatively needed, no doubt, and men of the world (in the best sense of the term) also, to carry on public affairs. But there is an element supplied by the class to which Macaulay belonged, an element not inferior to that just named either in usefulness or dignity. The literary statesman supplies the philosophy of government for one thing, keeping alive the large view of affairs, their relation to past and future, and preventing questions from becoming mere questions of expediency or detail. He is an orator rather than a debater, though he is often a debater likewise. He represents the *sentiment* of a period as well as its common sense—the poetry of public life in addition to its practical character; and he is more necessary in a free government than in a despotic one. A despotism requires chiefly a managing talent, such as soldiers and diplomatists can supply. It directs the people, and regulates them, perhaps, with a regard to their interests and feeling, but certainly without representing their highest tendencies, the development of which it would find undesirable. Thus, in France, we see clever administrators and clerks managing an army and a mob; but that is all we see. Where would be Macaulay's place in France? Where that of Mr. Gladstone or Mr. Grote, Lord Wrottesley or Lord Grey? There would be nothing for such men but the occasional prison of Montalembert, or the provincial retirement of Guizot. In Great Britain our public life is a fresher, purer atmosphere, because it is a freer one, and because a high, accomplished intellectuality forms part of it.

Nevertheless, we may easily lose a part of this advantage by neglecting the means of securing it. If we are to have Macaulays they must be able to find their way into Parliament. No doubt such a man would soon get a seat *after* acquiring Parliamentary distinction. But how acquire the means of getting at such distinction? This becomes less easy as the mere money interest becomes more strong. The boroughs generally choose the brewer, the soapboiler, &c., who makes extreme professions, which he is unable to carry out in the smallest degree. Perhaps he threatens to "shake the oligarchy." But the "oligarchy," which consists of highly-educated gentlemen, laughs at his ignorance and despises his vulgarity, and, for practical purposes, there is an end of him. Now, his rival—the juvenile Macaulay, let us say—would not make such extreme professions but would achieve whatever of reasonable lay hid in their exaggeration. His talent would illustrate the Middle Class, and prove its right to share in the Government; and, in fact, it was just the men of whom we are speaking—the Broughams, Macaulays, and so forth—who made the Reform Bill possible. Macaulay himself—introduced by Lord Lansdowne to Parliament through Calne—performed brilliant services to the cause.

Well, then, shall we trust to the Calnes for the future again? Certainly not. They are no longer used for such purposes, but solely for those of the families whose appanages they are. Their tenure compels this, even were their possessors anxious in the old direction; and, besides, the new system makes the bulk of boroughs too strong to be modified by their action. The remedy must be with the existing voters, and such new ones as the next Reform Bill may add to their number. Of course, there is a danger that the mere Chartist demagogue may, at the first blush, outvie his betters in popular favour; but he would soon be found impotent in the House, and the disgrace of this would react upon the constituency, and induce them to kick him out. So at least we hope, but the alternative is too gloomy to be easily contemplated. But we see great difficulties in the way of the next representative of the Macaulay class. Who hopes to find a Calne of twenty thousand inhabitants to be his Lansdowne? All the brewer's friends will hate him more than if he was a lord, and the reading artisans (his best friends in such a place) would not be numerous enough to do him much good. Still, a mere statement of all this is calculated to be beneficial by setting people thinking on one of the political dangers ahead of us—the danger of oligarchy being supreme by the middle classes sending their ignoramuses to Parliament.

We could hardly say more in honour of the great man who has been taken from us than that his death has set us thinking on the best means of securing to Parliament men like himself.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE KING OF THE BELGIANS has just founded a charitable institution in Coburg, under the name of "The Leopold Foundation for the Treatment of the Sick," and endowed it with 100,000 florins.

"KING MAXIMILIAN OF BAVARIA intends," says the *Post Ampt Gazette*, "to make a journey to Spain in February. His Majesty's absence will extend over several months."

QUEEN LOUISA OF SWEDEN, Princess of Holland, has published, under the pseudonym of Jane Wincombe, a volume in Swedish, translated from this English, entitled "The Labourers in the Lord's Vineyard." The book is sold for the benefit of an hospital founded by the Queen soon after her arrival at Stockholm.

THE DUKE DE MALAKOFF has returned to Paris from England.

THE DUC D'ALENCON, second son of the Duc de Nemours; the Duc de Penthièvre, only son of Prince de Joinville; and the Prince de Condé, eldest son of the Duc d'Aumale, are to be placed at the High School, Edinburgh, under Dr. Schmitz, who acted as tutor to the Prince of Wales during his recent stay in Edinburgh. The Princes are all about fourteen or fifteen years of age.

THE POET LAURKATE has written a poem for the *Cornhill Magazine*. The poem is short, and bears the title of "Tithon."

THE AGRICULTURAL OFFICIALS OF THE VIENNESE CABINET, it is said, have engaged to serve gratuitously in order to lighten the public burdens. The Archdukes, who have private property, have made the same offer for a period of five years.

LORD CLYDE will, in all probability, arrive in Dover from India by the overland route, via Marseille, on or about the 15th inst.

THE MARQUIS OF BREADALBANE has given a subscription of £500 towards the fund for equipping the Breadalbane Volunteers.

A SWISS, named Jules Henri Robert, was found dead in a railway carriage at Holyhead on Saturday week.

COLONEL COLE has invented a revolving shot-gun, which, upon a late trial, put 175 pellets in a circle of twelve inches diameter, penetrating seventy-five sheets of ordinary brown paper. The distance was thirty yards.

MR. KENNIE, the engineer, was knocked down while crossing Blackfriars-bridge, a few days since, by a coal-wagon, and his legs were severely lacerated by the wheels passing over them. He now lies in a very precarious state.

A MARRIED WOMAN, named Scholes, has died at Blackburn from injuries received from her husband on Christmas Eve. The man has been committed for trial on a charge of manslaughter.

MR. GEORGE AGAR ELLIS, first paid Attaché at Constantinople, is appointed first paid Attaché to her Majesty's Embassy at Paris, in the room of Mr. Evan Montagu Baillie, appointed Secretary of Legation at Rio Janeiro.

AT THE COURT OF DIVORCE there is now an arrears of six hundred divorce cases, and a hundred and fifty probate and administration cases.

THE SONGS OF THOMAS HOOD have just been produced in a German dress at Hanover.

FRANCE has acquired a footing at Zoula, in Abyssinia, and has sent out a military Governor. The increase of the French in Egypt strikes travellers with surprise.

THE OLD CEREMONY of bringing to the high table a boar's head, bedecked with bays and rosemary, was observed, as usual, at Queen's College, Oxford, on Christmas Day.

A PITMAN AND HIS DAUGHTER have been committed for trial, the former with receiving, and the latter stealing, a letter from the Hartlepool Post Office, containing bank notes, cheques, &c., to the amount of £730.

ON THE REMOVAL of further portions of the wreck of the *Royal Charter* about £19,000 worth more gold was recovered, comprising 1486 sovereigns, 15 ounces of dust, 106 rupees, 26 ingots, and 19 pieces of ingots, in all about 81b. The ingots are all identified as belonging to the Bank of Australasia, the Bank of New South Wales, and the Oriental Bank.

MR. WILLIAM PAMMER, of Edenderry, and Anne, daughter of Mr. James McAlinden, of Slane, were lately married. The groom's age is eighty-five, the bride's is twenty-eight.

A LECTURE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FRIENDLY SOCIETIES for the working classes was delivered in the Lecture Hall, Derby, last week, by Mr. Tidd Pratt, the registrar of friendly societies.

THE TOTAL FORCE at present at Aldershot, including men on furlough, amounts to 16,000 of all arms, of which number about 13,000 are actually in camp, divided into three brigades of infantry and one of cavalry.

MR. O'GRADY, High Sheriff elect, of Castle Garde, near Pallas, in the county of Limerick, has disappeared. His absence has extended over a month.

MR. FINNING, manager of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, has arranged a plan by which a train can be filled with troops and started within three minutes of their arrival at the station.

THE LORDS OF HER MAJESTY'S COUNCIL have appointed medical inspectors, under the Public Health Act, to inquire into the present state of vaccination in the various districts of the metropolis.

MESSES. FOTHERGILL and WORMALD, two Curates of the parish of Knightsbridge, have seceded from the Church of England, one from St. Paul's, and the other from St. Barnabas. They have since been received into the Church of Rome.

A YOUNG JEWESS, named Sole di Segni, was baptised at Rome on the 21st ult. Countess Antonelli was godmother, and Cardinal Patrizi officiated at the ceremony.

THE SHIP "ACCRINGTON" arrived at Pernambuco, from Liverpool, with soldiers' wives and families, among whom sixty-five deaths occurred, owing to deficient ventilation, the ship not having one porthole. The captain, chief officer, and surgeon were poisoned by tartaric acid. The surgeon only recovered. The matter is being investigated by the British Consul.

A SERIOUS COLLISION, involving injury to a large number of passengers and the loss of considerable property, took place on Sunday evening near the Tilbury junction of the Colchester section of the Eastern Counties Railway. It is a marvel that nobody was killed.

LORD JOHN DOUGLAS MONTAGUE SCOTT, second son of the fourth Duke of Buccleuch, died at Canot Lodge, near Rugby, on Tuesday last. He was born in 1809, and married, in 1836, Alicia, eldest daughter of Mr. John Spottiswoode. His Lordship does not leave any family.

MR. J. W. GILBERT has retired from the position of General Manager of the London and Westminster Bank, which he held since its formation in 1834, and is succeeded by Mr. Ewings, the Manager of the Bloomsbury branch. Mr. Gilbert will be recommended to a seat in the direction at the next meeting.

THE UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE have the honour of dividing the four archbishoprics equally between them; but the 36 bishoprics of the United Kingdom are shared in the following proportions:—Cambridge, 17; Oxford, 13; Dublin, 6.

THOMAS GARRETT, of Wilmington, Delaware, a Quaker, stated at the John Brown meeting in Philadelphia, that he had been instrumental in aiding 2245 slaves to escape by the "underground railroad," besides about 200 more whom he had assisted before he began to keep an account.

MR. J. S. MANSFIELD, who for upwards of six years has filled the office of stipendiary magistrate at Liverpool, and is now translated to a London Court, was on Tuesday presented with addresses from the Liverpool Bar and Fellows of the Liverpool Law Society.

CHARLES ANNOIS, a Brazilian seaman, condemned for the murder of the captain of a vessel in which he (Annois) was cook, has received a further respite to the 26th of April. Inquiries are being made into his sanity, we believe.

A GERMAN ASTRONOMER, M. Schwabe, endeavours to show that certain furrow-like streaks observable upon the surface of the moon are ascribable to the existence of vegetation. These streaks appear and disappear, he says, according to the season.

THE CHAMBERLAIN BERLING, private secretary to the King of Denmark, has been dismissed. He was to leave that country for Algiers.

FRERE DAVIS, a fine young woman, nineteen years of age, destroyed herself on Tuesday by leaping down a coalpit near Wolverhampton. She had been thrown into a paroxysm of jealousy by her lover having taken another young woman to a dance.

THE DANISH BARQUE *Danemark*, which left Liverpool some time ago on a voyage to San Francisco, put into Stanley (Falkland Islands), with her wheel damaged and injuries to her rigging, caused by the rough weather which she experienced off Cape Horn, the rounding of which occupied six weeks.

A LETTER FROM PESTH says:—"Young Stasz, son of the chief of the Opposition party in Transylvania, has just been placed under the surveillance of the police for six months, for having on the occasion of the opening of the Transylvanian Museum given a toast to 'Our brethren in exile.'"

A RECURRENT MARBLE STATUE has been placed over the grave of Visconti in Pere la Chaise. The architect of the new Louvre and Tuileries junction, reclining, holds in his hand a scroll on which the ground-plan of the palace is traced. The monument is by subscription from his brother artists and architects.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

DEATH has been very busy amongst "the upper ten thousand" during the last month. Seldom has it happened, I think, that within so short a period so many notable people have fallen before his darts. I may notice, amongst others, the Right Hon. Henry Fitzroy, Lord Holland, Lord Hastings, the Earl of Camperdown; and, since I last wrote, Lord Macaulay. So far back as the 19th of November I announced that Mr. Fitzroy was dangerously ill, and now he is dead and buried. He was interred at Hanwell Cemetery, in the family grave there. The funeral, though largely attended, was a private one, but honest tears welling up irrepressibly from the heart were shed over his grave; and no wonder, for Mr. Fitzroy was a man that could not fail to secure the love of all who knew him. The three Barons Rothschild were there, and were evidently deeply moved. Mr. Fitzroy, you will remember, married their sister. Lord Charles Russell, the Sergeant-at-Arms, was also present, and a deputation from Lewes, which borough Mr. Fitzroy represented, and some gentlemen of the Hon. Artillery Company, of which force the deceased was Lieutenant-Colonel. Mr. Fitzroy was brother of Lord Southampton. He has left a widow and daughters, but no son, to inherit his property. The newspapers have told us what offices Mr. Fitzroy held during his life; but one fact I have not seen noticed. He was the only man that ever acted as Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons until 1853. No provision was made for supplying the place of Mr. Speaker in case of his illness, and down to that year, when he was unavoidably absent, no business could be done, but the clerk acquainted the House with the cause of Mr. Speaker's absence, and put the question of adjournment. When the Speaker was so ill as to be unable to attend for a considerable time, another Speaker was chosen, with the usual formalities; and, on the recovery of the former Speaker, the latter would resign or "fall sick," and the former was re-elected with a repetition of the usual ceremonies. But in 1853 the House resolved "That, whenever the House shall be informed of the unavoidable absence of Mr. Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means do take the chair for that day only; and, in the event of Mr. Speaker's absence continuing for more than one day, do, if the House shall think fit, and shall so order it, take the chair in like manner on any subsequent day during such absence." From 1853 to 1855 no occasion arose to carry the resolution into effect; but on the 7th of May, 1855, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, whilst the House was in Committee, sent a letter to the clerk announcing that he was too unwell to take the chair; whereupon, when the House resumed, Mr. Fitzroy was ordered to supply his place; and, for the first time for many centuries, the House was presided over by a gentleman without official costume. On the following day Mr. Speaker was still unwell, and when the House assembled no prayers were read; but again Mr. Fitzroy was ordered to take the chair, and it was also ordered that he should take the chair every day for a week if Mr. Speaker's illness should continue so long. On the next day, therefore, Mr. Fitzroy entered the House in due form as Mr. Speaker. He was not, however, dressed like the Speaker, but wore a Court dress and short wig. On the 11th of June Mr. Speaker returned; and, certain members having taken the oaths during his absence, and doubts of the validity of these oaths having been entertained, a bill was passed to make all right, and a more comprehensive order was made to prevent all difficulties for the future. Mr. Fitzroy was so admirable a Chairman of Ways and Means, and acquitted himself so well during his temporary Speakership, that when Mr. Lefevre retired it was generally thought that he would be the new Speaker, but Lord Palmerston ruled otherwise. There were, it is said, some heartburnings caused by the slight; but they passed away very soon.

Of Lord Holland little need be said: indeed, there is very little to say. The only notable thing to be recorded is that he had a father who was famous in his day and generation as a leading Whig, a redactor of strong and vigorous protests in the minute-book of the House of Lords, and a friend and somewhat ostentatious patron of the literary Whig celebrities of his time. I remember the old Lord well. He was a somewhat corpulent man, had remarkably white hair, and wore the Whig costume—blue coat, ornamented with bright buttons, a capacious buff waistcoat, reaching to the hips, and displaying at the breast an ample frilled shirt. But it was not only at the breast that his shirt was displayed, for in those days old gentlemen of his Lordship's school wore no "suspenders," and, when his Lordship got excited in speaking, the inner garment might be plainly seen between his waistcoat and lower integument. The noble Lord was an eloquent and impassioned speaker; and when he got excited, as he generally did, his words rolled out so rapidly that it was difficult to follow him. Of Lord Hastings nothing can be said excepting that he was the son of his father, who was the son of his, &c., &c., up to Sir Thomas Astley, who fell at the Battle of Evesham, in the reign of Henry III., between the King and Simon de Montfort, A.D. 1265.

The Earl of Camperdown's death is chiefly interesting to the public because it removes Lord Duncan from the House of Commons to the House of Lords. The noble Lord, now Earl of Camperdown, has been in Parliament, on and off, since 1837. He first sat for Southampton, which place he represented until 1841. He then sat for Bath, from 1841 till 1852. In the latter year he tried for Bury, in Lancashire, against Frederick Peel, and failed. He was then out of Parliament for two years, but in 1854 he was elected for Forfarshire, his own county, and has represented it ever since. He will be chiefly collected in the House of Commons by his voluble talk, his Scotch accent, and his gay waistoats. His Lordship is not a dandy, but in the article of vests he affects bright colours. He was a Lord of the Treasury from 1855 to 1858; but in the present Government he held no office. His grandfather was the famous Admiral who beat the Dutch under De Winter off Camperdown, and received a peerage, coupled with a pension of £3000 a year for three lives. Therefore this pension will cease with the life of the new Earl. May he live long to enjoy it!

The death of Lord Macaulay seems to have taken the public by surprise, but it can have surprised no one who knew him, for his Lordship has been wearing away for several years. Whatever his disease, it is probable that its seeds were deposited when he was in India, for he has never been the "same man" since he returned from Calcutta. No one who has seen Macaulay during the last ten years and noticed the ashy paleness of his face, and all the appearances of premature age which marked his countenance and gait, could have expected that he would arrive at old age. Of Lord Macaulay's biography I need say nothing, as, of course, you will give this in another column. Nor need I here offer any lengthened criticism upon his literary achievements. I may, however, venture to offer an opinion that his literary works will not live so long as many people suppose. As a poet he cannot, I conceive, take a place in the front rank. He was a clever painter; but, surely, little more. And as an historian I humbly conceive that it is a great mistake to place him on a level with Hume and Gibbon. He seems to me to have lacked both the clearness, impartiality, and insight necessary to make a great historian. Pleasant reading enough is his "History of England," but the misfortune is, the reader can never be sure that he is getting the real truth. I do not mean to say that the historian's facts are not generally correct; but I have my doubts whether they are not often distorted and refracted by the medium through which they are presented. In short, I have always risen from the perusal of Macaulay's history with a painful feeling that I have been dazzled and misled. On Macaulay as essayist I have but little space to dwell, but I cannot refrain from expressing a wish that he had never written that essay upon Lord Bacon. This essay, as every one knows, is a regular indictment against the illustrious philosopher. Had the essayist received a brief with a large retaining fee he could not have worked harder to damage the character of Lord Bacon. From the beginning to the end of his estimate he strives to make out that Bacon was really the "meanest of mankind." But we are promised an elaborate life of Bacon, which, let us hope, will give us a truer and more favourable estimate of the character of our greatest philosopher. And now a word on Macaulay's oratory. Great marvels are told of the attractive character of his speaking in the House, and that it was attractive there cannot be a doubt. In fact, it was found to be impossible to carry on any private business when

it became known that Macaulay was up. No sooner was the announcement made in the committee-rooms than all business was instantly suspended, and out of every room chairmen and committees rushed pell-mell, helter-skelter, as if they had all suddenly "eaten of the insane root which takes the reason prisoner," to hear the great orator; whilst the dining-room, smoking-room, library, and lobbies were cleared in a moment. And even Pall-mall, Whitehall, and Parliament-street felt the excitement; for, as soon as the telegraph flashed the news to the clubs that Macaulay was on his legs, every cab was hailed to whirl impatient members to the House. There was certainly a great fascination in Macaulay's speaking: it was so novel, so uncommon, so different to the oratory of all our other great speakers. There was such a rushing torrent of glorious English, such an array of facts clothed in such magnificent rhetoric, that for a time all opposition was crushed and overwhelmed, and even the opponents themselves carried away from their positions as by a flood. But, after all, if I am asked whether I adjudge Macaulay to have been a really great orator, I should hesitate to decide that he was. He was certainly the most brilliant rhetorician that ever addressed the House, but in permanently effective oratory it appears to me that he was not to be compared to Canning, Plunket, Brougham, and others that I might name; but this is a subject into which I cannot further enter. As a statesman Lord Macaulay did nothing.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The pantomimes and burlesques are in full force, and the houses, which generally were very bad the first week, have sensibly improved.

Madame Celeste is hard at work superintending a dramatic version of the "Tale of the Two Cities," which is in preparation at the LYCEUM.

Mr. Albert Smith announces his intention of reappearing on Tuesday night. Grave doctors and cautious friends shake their heads, but he is inflexible. It is to be regretted; the public can afford to wait a week or two, but cannot afford to risk the chance of losing so great a favourite.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

SURELY one of the most extraordinary facts of the day is the continued existence of certain periodical publications. Month after month we see profusely-advertised magazines which are never met with save on club-reading-tables or in old-fashioned coffee-houses, and which, if perused, are found to contain the dullest amateur twaddle and struggles at bookmaking possibly conceivable. Within the last ten years periodical literature has taken a gigantic stride. We have seen the publication of *Household Words* and its successor, *All the Year Round*, the *Welcome Guest*, and *Once a Week*, periodicals of large circulation, paying excellent prices, and officered by the first artistic and literary genius of the country. We have seen the establishment of the *Universal Review*, than which nothing can be more admirably written, of *Macmillan's* and the *Cornhill Magazine*—the first organ of a large and powerful clique, the other edited by a man whose name will endure with the English language, constructed on the most liberal principles, and contributed to by men of the highest standing in their respective departments of literature, and yet, during this period, only one of the high-priced monthlies (*Asiatic Review*) has succumbed, and that merely, if we may credit a report current at the time, because a preposterous price was demanded for it by its proprietor, who had too much to do to devote the requisite time to its management! Why did not Mr. Sala, in his excellent paper "Where Are They?" ask where were the readers of *Bentley* and the *New Monthly*? Where are their writers? Who are "Onida," and "Monkshead"? Why do we never hear of them anywhere else? Who are the agreeable rattleers who tell us "How Jack Jamart went to the Derby," or who pen the history of "Mrs. Pottles' Papier-maché Pipkin"? We can understand a good Tory subscription to *Blackwood's*; the essay-writing in *Fraser* is always good; and a really good thing is pretty nearly certain to be appreciated by the public; but in the magazines I have mentioned there is not one redeeming point—not one oasis of ability in the whole desert of dreariness. Nobody buys them—nobody reads them. You never see them quoted, or hear them mentioned, and yet they appear with precise punctuality and exist somehow. How, will never be discovered until the authorship of Junius, the identity of the man in the iron mask, the final destination of pins, or the reason why, for the last two months, every number of certain periodicals has contained an allusion to Mr. Sutherland Edwards.

With all the rush of novelty there seems no likelihood of stern, tough old *Blackwood* giving ground. His number for the New Year is replete with good things. First, there is the opening of a poem, called "St. Stephen's," which is to be in three parts, and in which "it is intended to give succinct sketches of our principal Parliamentary orators, commencing with the origin of Parliamentary oratory (in the Civil Wars) and closing with the late Sir Robert Peel." The first part is rather heavy, but contains some good portraits, the best being that of Swift, who is described as half Rousseau and half Rabelais. Then there is the commencement of a new story, "Norman Leslie," which opens well, but which is at present a little too Scotch for Southern taste. A writer in "Maga" has a special felicity in falling foul of Mr. Ruskin. The great art-critic has occasionally been humorously treated (every one will recollect that capital parody, "Mr. Dusky's Opinions on Art"); but this month the reviewer has thrown away the bladder and taken up the oaken cudgel, and never was castigation more severely administered than in an article called "The Elements of Drawing," in which Mr. Ruskin's opinions and dicta are ruthlessly trampled upon, and he is branded as an impostor and a sham, whose misplaced blame can do no harm, but whose equally misplaced praise is likely to have a seriously baneful effect on several rising artists. Under the title of "The Last French Hero: being some Chapters of a very French Novel not yet published, by Alexandre Sue-Sand Filis," the present style of French romance-writing is broadly but cleverly caricatured. One of the very best and most sensible papers which has been published for a long time is that on "The Public Service," written in all fairness and moderation, but evidently by one who is thoroughly a master of the subject, and who has a kindly feeling for the class into whose condition he inquires. The hope that the working bees of the hive will ever obtain proper recognition, and that the time may come when the rewards of efficient public employment will be assimilated more nearly to the prizes of private professional success, which the writer indulges in, will prove, I fear, a delusive one. Other papers in *Blackwood* are "Rambles at Random in the Southern States," pleasantly written, and containing some new views on the slavery question, and a laudatory review of Captain McClintock's Narrative. I have kept the *bonne bouche* till the last; I think it is long since the publication of a neater simple *jeu d'esprit* than the following:—

MR. BULL'S SONG.

THE SLY LITTLE MAN.

There's a sly little man that lives over the way,
Who always has something quite civil to say;
Yet he looks at my House, from his own, with an eye
That says, "I perhaps may look in by and by":
So I think my best plan
With the sly little man
Is to make all the premises safe, if I can.

I have not the least doubt he would think it no sin,
Any night that he thought me asleep, to "look in;"
There's "the old pewter spoons," and "the old tankard" too,
And the sword over the mantelpiece marked "Waterloo"—
And its clearly the plan
Of the sly little man
To take them all from me—whenever he can.

So my doors and my windows I've bolted and barr'd,
And the trust of watchdogs takes care of the Yard—
A watchdog of whom I, his master, will say,
"Woe betide the housebreaker that comes in his way!"
For really the plan
Of the sly little man
Is one I must foil if I possibly can.

No doubt he will say, as in fact he has said,
"What fancy is this that's come into your head!
Your House once was open; it surely can't be
That all this is meant for a kind friend like me!"
But then it's the plan
Of the sly little man
To deal much in blarney wherever he can.

There's one of the scullions, a fellow in drab—
An impudent tyke, with the gift of the gab,
Who often will say, "Is it not a hard case
That our door should be shut in the gentleman's face?"
"I would be far the best plan
To trust to the man—
No fear of our losing a pot or a pan!"

But the views of the scullion I own are not mine,
And still to the bolts and the bars I incline;
Nay, I should not much care if my neighbours all knew
That I've lately been getting a RILE or two;
That's my simple plan
With the sly little man;
And so, he may now take the spoons—if he can.

Fraser leads off with an essay, by that many-initialed clergyman A. K. H. B., "Concerning Disappointment and Success," written with all that ease and freedom, spirit and liveliness, knowledge of the world and omnipresent benevolence which characterise this genial and accomplished author. I dare say, in his modesty, the writer does not know it, but I have little doubt that the publication of these papers in its pages contributes in no small degree to the success of the magazine. They are everybody's reading, and no one can rise from their perusal without feeling healthier and purer. By the way, what has become of the amusing "Vagabond" of *Fraser*, worthy companion of A. K. H. B., and why does he not resume his pen? There is the commencement of a new story of modern life, "Wheat and Tares," which promises well. It is written with an evident knowledge of society, and the sketch of the Archdeacon is capital. Mr. "Headlong Hall" Peacock contributes the second part of his very interesting "Recollections of Shelley," honestly told. The writer's friendship for the poet does not prevent him from giving an account of the separation of Shelley and his first wife, which is very different from that made public in the "Memorials." There is also an extremely pleasant account of some "Conversations with Prince Metternich," by Major Noel, whence, among other things, we learn the great diplomatist's belief in phrenology, and that, since he became acquainted with Gall's discoveries, he never employed any one confidentially or about his person without reference to the shape of his head. There are also in *Fraser* a searching and somewhat bitter article on Mr. Payne Collier's Shakespearean discoveries, an account of the "Literary Suburb of the Eighteenth Century," the continuation of "Holmby House," and a political paper on "Egypt and the Suez Canal."

The announcement of a new poem by Alfred Tennyson has of course caused an extraordinary sale of *Macmillan's Magazine*. With all my love and reverence for the Laureate, I fear that "Sea Dreams, an Idyll," will add nothing to his fame, and will prove a severe disappointment to those who have anxiously awaited its publication. The story is weak and uninteresting, and of the blank verse in which it is set forth there are few quotable lines—none which will be remembered in after time. Amongst all the poems collected in the two well-known green volumes I doubt if there be one so tame and prosaic. "A city clerk, not gently born and bred," gets a holiday, and takes his wife and child to the seaside. The man has risked his all with a swindler, a rogue, who tempted him

To buy wild shares in some Peruvian mine.

The money is, of course, lost, and the husband's first night of holiday is disturbed by a wild dream, in which he sees a gigantic woman, who tells him that her strength came by working in the mines. He asks her of the prospect of his shares, but she does not answer him, and then he sees a fleet of glass wrecked on a reef of gold, hears a clash, and wakes.

"Nay," said the kindly wife to comfort him,
"You raised your arm—you tumbled down and broke
The glass with little Margaret's medicine in it;
And, breaking that, you made and broke your dream:
A trifle makes a dream, a trifle breaks."

But this prosaic and matter-of-fact explanation does not suit the husband, and he narrates how on the previous day he had met the Peruvian miner and asked to see the books, how the miner had "dodged him with a long and loose account," and "gript his hard hand, and with God-bless-you! went." The husband describes how he stared after this swindler, and how, with curious physiological instinct, he

Read rascal in the motion of his back,
And scoundrel in his supple, sliding knee.

The wife attempts to moderate his wrath, and narrates her dream, which is more incomprehensible and not a whit more interesting than his; and then announces that the Peruvian miner is dead, having died of disease of the heart shortly after his interview with her husband. Meanwhile the child has woken, and will not sleep again without having "Little Birdie" sung to her, and this introduces the prettiest passage in the poem:—

Saying this,
The woman half turn'd round from him she loved,
Left him one hand, and reaching through the night
Her other, found (for it was close beside),
And half embraced the basket cradle-head
With one soft arm, which, like the pliant bough
That moving moves the nest and nestling, sway'd
The cradle, while she sang this baby song.

The baby song itself is puerile and worthless in the extreme:—

What does little birdie say In her nest at peep of day? Let me fly, says little birdie, Mother, let me fly away. Birdie, rest a little longer, Till the little wings are stronger. So she rests a little longer, Then she flies away.	What does little baby say, In her bed at peep of day? Baby says, like little birdie, Let me rise and fly away. Baby, sleep a little longer, Till the little limbs are stronger. If she sleeps a little longer, Baby too shall fly away.
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I am afraid that this idyll, for which, if popular report speaks true, Mr. Tennyson received £250, was like the razors celebrated by Peter Pindar, "made to sell." In the feeble doggerel just quoted, and in such lines as

And loud-lunged Antibabylonisms,

it is impossible to recognise the deep thinker and the sweet versifier who from his earliest efforts to his latest great book has always clothed noble thoughts in exquisite language. The *Saturday Review* once expatiated on the noble conduct of Mr. Tennyson in keeping himself secluded from any personal acquaintance with the public, but this forcing of the Muse for hire is surely as compromising as public reading or lecture-giving. This month's number of *Macmillan* is, on the whole, an improvement on its predecessors. There is a clever paper on "The Writings of Louis Napoleon," by the editor; a review of "American Humorous Poetry," by Mr. F. G. Stephens; and a warm in memoriam article on the late Dr. George Wilson, by the Rev. J. Cairns. A paper "On the Subject of Clothes," by Miss Muloch, is a new specimen of bookmaking which, if sent in by an unknown contributor, would undoubtedly have been rejected; but, *en revanche*, "Tom Brown at Oxford" is greatly improved, and is becoming very readable.

The *Dublin University* is not very brilliant. The first part of the new story "Vonved the Dane," is heavy, and the second part of the article on Mr. Thackeray is very econonistic and not in the least degree critical. The same may be said of a set of reviews under the title of "A Rainy Day with Tennyson and our Poets." Judge Halliburton, in "The Season Ticket," is very good. A poem on the "Wreck of the Royal Charter" is singularly bad.

The *Universal Review* is scarcely up to its average this month, though containing much matter of interest. The article on the "National Money-box" is rather heavy, and Dr. Doran's notice of the late George Rose is meagre in detail, and brought to a very abrupt

conclusion. Mr. J. C. Jeaffreson's new tale, "Sir Everard's Daughter," opens capably—father and daughter are alike well drawn, and we look forward with interest to the continuation. Mr. Hannay's notice of Lord Dundonald's Autobiography is frank, spirited, and hearty, just such criticism as the book deserves.

The *New Quarterly Review* gives a very clear and concise digest of all the principal works in every department of literature which have appeared during the past three months, and contains some original articles of more than average merit. The best of those in the new number is on "Meyerbeer and the Lyric Drama," which is written with great ability, impartiality, and good taste. The theatrical criticism is also well done.

The *English Woman's Journal* progresses. Miss Parkes's essay on "What Educated Women Can Do" is clever and modest, and free from "strongmindedness." What educated women (at least those attached to that journal) can't do is to write poetry—taste the specimen "New-Year's Wishes" in the present number. Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell's "Letter to Young Ladies desirous of Studying Medicine" will meet with, let us hope, but few respondents.

The January part of the *Welcome Guest* shows that the new series is keeping up with undiminished vigour. Mr. Brough's clever story of "Miss Brown" is succeeded by a serial called "Blow Hot, Blow Cold," from the pen of Mr. A. Mayhew. One of the best papers in the part is called "An Orphan in a China Shop," by Mrs. Hollingshead.

MR. CARDWELL AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

THE "Ancient Order of Druids" of Oxford held their usual annual festival in the Townhall of that city on Monday night. It is the custom for the members for the city to attend these dinners, and embrace the opportunity they afford of addressing their constituents on the state of public affairs apropos of the opening year. The present occasion was no exception to the established rule. The Right Hon. E. Cardwell came from Ireland to be present at the festival, and his colleague, Mr. Langston, M.P., was also there to deliver his opinions of current political affairs. Mr. Cardwell said of the Italian campaign:—

It has left behind it two great questions, the one political, the other practical, and having a more immediate bearing on our own interests. In that great political question, the future of Italy, we have perhaps, no direct and individual concern. But we have this feeling; wherever the human intellect is quickened by exertion and stimulated by industry—wherever there is commerce, wherever there is liberty—there we know there will be sympathy with England. And accordingly we cannot be indifferent to the future fate of Italy. We cannot but feel our pulses throb with sympathy for the land of Dante and Galileo; we cannot but desire to see her material prosperity advance, her social progress facilitated, and Italy herself resuming an honourable place in the great confederation of European nations.

On the subject of our defences he said:—

For my part I feel no apprehension of any present danger from any quarter whatsoever. I believe that we enjoy a good understanding with all the nations of the world, and that our position is one not only of peace, but of security. But is that any reason why we should be blind to the lessons of experience or deaf to the admonitions of wisdom, drawn from events as they pass before our eyes? If we have seen that the armoury on which all nations have relied up to the present period has become entirely antiquated—if we have found that the march of improvement has not been limited to the arts of peace, but has also extended to the arts of war—is it not necessary for this great country to be first and foremost in determining that on no sympathy with foreign nations and on no good understanding with them, but on her own right arm and her own resources, she will at all times depend for the maintenance of the prosperity with which Providence has endowed her? What, gentlemen, is the principle on which each of you pays the annual premium on the insurance of your houses? Not because you believe that you will all be burnt out during the year on which you are entering. You have no expectation or apprehension of that sort. But this you say, "I will not live that slavish life of continual anxiety. I will have calm assurance; I will have tranquil enjoyment; I will be master of myself and of my possessions by placing myself superior to the risks of fate and fortune." That is your principle in private life. So, too, it is the true principle for this great empire to rest on her own resources.

Mr. Cardwell then spoke of the flourishing condition of Ireland at this moment. He says that, on entering on his duties in that country, he found her agricultural prosperity quickened, her commercial energy animated and excited, her crime diminished; her poor rates, lately so heavy, falling to the lowest amount. He found, above all, a universal thirst for education, and the means of gratifying it calculated to raise the character of her people, and to elevate the whole tone both of the country and its Government.

The hon. member had also something to say about the question of Reform:—

I believe there is in the country, irrespective of party, a sincere and general desire that this question should now be satisfactorily set at rest. As my hon. colleague has told you, all parties in the State are now pledged to the proposition that there shall be some reform of our representative system—that there shall be some transfer of power and some extension of the franchise. No doubt, in the particular proposals that we shall make, we may meet with difficulties and may be involved in contradictions. But this I hope, that if the measure be in itself a fair, a wise, and a righteous measure, it will receive such an amount of public support as was certainly not accorded to such a project in the days of the agitation on the first Reform Bill, when this question was the occasion of much more party strife and general excitement than it is likely to produce in the comparatively temperate times in which we have the happiness to live. I cannot, therefore, but trust that the year on which we are entering will see a measure of reform satisfactory to you and to the public at large not only introduced but carried—a measure calculated to widen the basis and strengthen the fabric of our institutions, and to render permanent the settlement which it will be the medium of effecting.

THE FORREST DIVORCE CASE.—The famous Forrest divorce case, which has been dragged through all the intricacies of the law for nine years, has at length been brought to a termination. The cause was first tried in New York in 1850, when the jury gave a verdict in favour of Mrs. Forrest, awarding alimony at the rate of 3000 dollars per annum. Mr. Forrest, dissatisfied with this award, appealed. Six years had slipped away. Mr. Forrest had continued his artistic career, and still maintained the place he has held at the head of his profession in America during more than a quarter of a century. Mrs. Forrest, retaining her maiden name, essayed the stage, but with only moderate success. Mr. Forrest's fortune was at least half a million of dollars, while she had only her earnings. The only money received by Mrs. Forrest from her husband was some small allowances while the cause was being tried; and now, when the final issue is reached, we have an award which compels Mr. Forrest to pay more than the sum given to Mrs. Forrest by the jury. The referees awards the 4000 dollars per annum from the time of the trial, and compels Mr. Forrest to give bond and mortgage security for its prompt payment. What with counsel's fees and incidental expenses, &c., the sum total to come out of the tragedian's pockets will not be much less than 100,000 dollars.

THE HUNGARIANS AND THE POPE.—In Prussian Poland a great number of Roman Catholics lately refused to sign an address to the Pope, drawn up in a feeling of animosity to the Italians. A letter from Pesth states that a similar circumstance has happened in that capital, where a Catholic association called "The Society of St. Stephen" exists, the object of which is to promote religious feelings amongst the people. It was at a meeting of this society that a proposition was made a few days ago to draw up an address to the Pope relative to the temporal power of the Holy See. After an eloquent speech from Canon Danilchik, who warmly opposed the proposition, the assembly almost unanimously refused to sign the document.

EMIGRATION.—The Government Immigration Agent in Victoria, in his annual report to the Colonial Government, says that a very urgent and increasing demand exists throughout the colony for single female servants, and employment could readily be found for at least 300 monthly. The following are the current rates of wages:—Cooks and laundresses, £30 to £35 per annum; housemaids, £25 to £30; general servants, £25 to £30; nurse-maids, £20 to £25; but really skilful and tried servants readily obtain much higher wages. The class most in requisition are good farm men-servants who can make themselves generally useful, and female domestic servants of every description.

AT THE SALT LAKE (the *Valley Tan* of November 16 says) "we saw a week or two ago, walking down Main-street, from the direction of the 'President's Office,' a man accompanied by four ladies. An air of slight perturbation in the party, mingled with evident expressions of satisfaction and happiness, led us to inquire who they were. Some one present informed us that they were a party that had been up to President Young's office to be married, and that the four ladies had just been united in indissoluble bonds to the man accompanying them."

ELECTRO-PLATED
SHOP FRONT.

ALTHOUGH our Australian colonies have the reputation of enjoying a rude wealth without much of the civilisation obtainable from it, yet in their cities great advances have been made, and many of the luxuries of the Western World transported to spots where, fifty years ago, the gum-tree flourished in solitude. Fashion is a mistress that asserts her sway over most communities, and our colonial sisterhood, when houses began to spring up, and society to establish its rules, soon swelled the train of the painted goddess. Wants, that in the bush and rude clearing were unknown, became necessities in the growing towns and cities. *Le Follet* and coloured Modes Parisiennes found their way into the windows of the timber shanties, and as these in their turn were replaced by larger residences of brick and mortar, so did it become necessary to establish shops at which the prescriptions furnished by the "fashion-books" could be made up. Above all things, the cities of Australia are mercantile, and we are therefore not surprised to find a citizen of Sydney erecting a shop more magnificent, and in better taste, than anything of the kind known in England.

The accompanying illustration shows an electro-plated shop front manufactured by Messrs. Burt and Co., of Deptford, for Mr. F. Giles, silkmerecer and draper, of Sydney, N.S.W.

HUNTING WOLVES IN RUSSIA.

HUNTING wolves is one of the favourite winter sports in Russia, and the method adopted by the hunters in its pursuit is scarcely less dan-

gerous than exciting. Three or four men place themselves in a sledge drawn by two swift horses, and, choosing some wild, snow-covered steppe, start across it at the full speed of their steeds. One of the party places himself in front as driver, having within reach a long two-pronged fork. Two more, armed with rifles, place themselves in the body of the vehicle, while a fourth, standing in the back, holds

and with undiminished speed cuts through the troop of pursuers. Surprised by this abrupt movement, the wolves for a moment hesitate, and lose some few minutes before forming their ranks; but these few minutes have sufficed; time has been gained by the hunters to allow their sledge to get a good advance, and a few versts place them out of danger.

aloft a young pig, the squealing of which soon brings the wolves from their lairs. At first they follow the track of the sledge in scanty numbers and at a very respectful distance, but as they increase they become more daring. From half a dozen they speedily multiply to fifty, then to a hundred, then to a thousand, until at last their red backs, surging on every side, totally obscure the snow. The leading wolves now spring at the horses' heads, and, notwithstanding the thrusts from the fork of the driver, they return again and again to the charge. The horses, trained for the purpose, neither swerve to the right nor left, nor relax their speed, but continue a straightforward course. Soon the sledge threatens to be entirely surrounded. If, unfortunately, one of the steeds should stumble and fall, nothing on earth can save horse or man. A few minutes would suffice for the wolves to make clean bones of both. This is the exciting moment of the chase. The hunters fire right and left into the swarming horde, bringing down one or more at each shot. Still the onward course is as furious as ever, a line of red marking the trail of sledge and carriage across the plain of snow. When the hunters have glutted their appetite for slaughter, the driver of the sledge suddenly brings his horses round



HUNTING WOLVES IN RUSSIA.



ELECTRO-PLATED SHOP FRONT AT SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

THE UNITED SERVICE.—A COUNCIL OF WAR.

THERE is a wonderful sympathy in this country for the warriors comfortably ending their days at Chelsea and Greenwich. A man in the red or the blue hospital uniform leads so enjoyable an existence that it is a wonder bounty-money should be necessary to entice "fine lads" to enter the service. Besides war there is no other trade open to a poor man where, should a leg be cut off or an arm blown away, the master is bound to support the crippled workman until "death doth please" to add his mound to the churchyard hillocks. Think of a Manchester cotton lord being called upon to find bread and meat for the lingering life of a maimed factory-worker. A boiler bursts, or a cogwheel is insufficiently protected, and a poor fellow loses the limbs which enabled him to feed the body. It was not the workman's fault, but he must bear the terrible results. The master, should any complaint be made, points to the workhouse for his answer. If the same mutilated man had been one of the hundred that advanced to take the enemy's guns, if a shell instead of a boiler had exploded, if a sabre instead of a cogwheel had sliced away an arm, he would have either received his shilling a day pension, or been added to the number who live so happily at Greenwich and Chelsea.

—We English are all a pugnacious, fighting set, and have great affection for fighters. Two boys quarrel over a marble, and as the dispute warms fists are doubled and a set-to takes place. The butcher and the baker stand still to see the combat, cabmen draw up their horses, costers stop their trucks, and urge on the little fists to bruise the tender faces; or, to take a more important example, the champion of the light-weights has had a set-to with some ambitious rival down in the Chatham marshes, and crowds beset the doors of the public-houses to learn which of the men has the better endured the heavy pounding. When this same champion returns victorious shouts of admiration greet his entry to the bar: he walks through the cheering crowd nobly as the triumphant Wellington surrounded by the multitudes of Madrid. We dearly love a bit of fighting. In the north they train dogs to it. We like it so much that we have a national debt of eight hundred millions. It is the most expensive taste; but still, if it was announced to-morrow that we were going to war with France, nine men out of every ten would feel as delighted as if they had cleared a £10 note in a bargain.

It is no bad life to be a Greenwich or a Chelsea pensioner. A good dinner every day, with a canful of very pleasant ale to make the meal perfect, comfortable sleeping-rooms and warm clothing, breakfast and supper ready to the minute, are no bad consolations for the wounded warrior. Add to this the great respect, and very often the admiration, these veterans meet with. If they are fond of snuff or tobacco they have only to chat for twenty minutes with some young gentleman and he will hand over the necessary sixpence—for a sailor's yarn or a soldier's camp story, told in the park of Greenwich or the gardens of Chelsea, whether it be true or not, sixpence is the regular price. People have a notion that these armless and legless warriors fought for their country. But no, no; before they joined the ship or shouldered the musket they fingered their bounty-money; and, if their pay had not been regular, what do you think the fighting men would have said? Ten pounds for the bounty, so much pay per diem, clothes to wear, and prize-money to hope for, these are the terms of both Army and Navy heroes.

Now, Mr. Rivière has painted a very charming little picture of two retired veterans chatting over the Crimean war, and following the progress of our troops with the aid of a chart. Mr. Rivière knew when he chose the subject that his picture would sell. He would never have ventured to paint such a theme as "the council of peace." Just imagine for a moment that he had represented two workmen—say a carpenter and a bricklayer—studying the plan of the Crystal Palace. He might have sent it to all the exhibitions in England, and still have had the painting on his hands, unless Sir Joseph Paxton, flattered by the allusion to his building, had consented to become the purchaser. The two old boys, in their long coats and cocked hats, with the grog coming in, appeal to thousands. The fault of the picture is, that neither of the old fellows has a wound to show for his fighting. The arms and legs are sound. A couple of crutches would have added to the success of the picture. As it is, we have a half idea that the two pensioners have not earned their pensions. In this country, as in all others, we like to have good value for our money. Certainly we should have felt more contented if the Greenwich representative had at least a hook for an arm, and the Chelsea one, at any rate, a foot injured. That is not being very exorbitant in our demands. We remember that when we used in our youth to visit Greenwich we always preferred chatting our sixpence worth with the most mutilated sailor we could find. Both legs and arms missing was to our notion the right and proper injury. Sometimes a man would try to soften us with details of internal injuries, but our hardened hearts couldn't grieve for what the eye didn't see. A little of this feeling exists in everybody, down to picture-buyers, and therefore Mr. Rivière was wrong to let his pensioners return from the wars in such excellent trim.

THE "GREAT EASTERN."

MR. R. J. R. CAMPBELL has just issued an explanatory statement of the earlier proceedings connected with the construction of the *Great Eastern*. It appears that as early as 1851 a company was projected for establishing a semi-monthly communication with the East, in which Mr. Campbell took a leading part. At that period the late Mr. Brunel conceived the idea of adopting a new form of competition by the construction of a vessel able to carry fuel for the longest voyage; but the directors, on considering his plans, urged, as an intermediate step, the

building of one vessel of 10,000 to 12,000 tons, but they were overruled, and the larger vessel was commenced. Whilst the *Great Eastern* was in process the contractor became involved in difficulty, and the granting of the engineer's certificate in his favour for a large amount was suspended, by which that money was saved. The engineer then took charge of the works, after which came the ruinous expenses of the launch. Tenders were then invited for the complete furnishing of the vessel for a fixed sum; but much difficulty was experienced in getting a sufficiently clear and binding specification to ensure the completion of the vessel in all respects for a sea voyage. Ultimately, as Mr. Scott Russell was the most suitable party, his tender was accepted, the work being placed under the control of Mr. Brunel. In addition to the share capital of £330,000 the company possessed a borrowing power of £50,000 as a working fund, and the contractor was urged forward by the directors to complete the ship in time to enable her to cross the Atlantic before the winter, and thus obtain employment, which would assist in disposing of the unsold shares, and in other ways contribute to replenish the company's exchequer. After the accident which prevented the voyage, it was still thought possible that the original plan might be carried out; but, owing to the report of the surveyors who were called in, it was decided to keep the vessel for the winter at Southampton. The requisite funds have been raised on mortgage to discharge existing obligations and to meet current requirements, and the arbitrators are employed in taking steps to arrive at a decision in reference to the final settlement of the contractor's account. The *Great Eastern* was constructed as the pioneer

voyage shall have determined certain questions. My answer is that it is the desire, and, so far as it depends upon them, the intention, of the Government to avoid all engagements which might embarrass and prejudice the future, until they themselves and until Parliament shall be in a condition to take a comprehensive view of the whole subject as to routes, as to cost, and the mode of meeting it, as to the proper object of subsidy from the Government, and as to its effect upon the competing enterprise of private parties, and upon the mastery of difficulties and improvement of steam navigation.—I remain, my dear sir, faithfully yours,
(Signed)

"R. J. R. Campbell, Esq."

"W. E. GLADSTONE."

ESCAPADE OF TWO ENGLISH LADIES AT FLORENCE.

AMONG the numerous host of our countrymen who have planted their tents on the banks of the Arno, there are many who openly advocate the interests of the Lorraine dynasty. "Some of these," says a correspondent of the *Daily News*, "belong to a class of her Majesty's subjects who would never be met in good society at home, but whom everybody is astonished to find moving in the highest circles abroad. Some others, though respectable both in character and education, have been induced to espouse the cause of the dethroned Prince only because they were much thought of by the Court, and always invited to the balls and dinners of the Pitti Palace. The prototype of the last-named class was the Marquis of Normanby, whose directions they constantly followed, for it was through his Lordship that the invitations were asked and obtained. Selfish, and totally unconcerned about the rights of the Italian people, these countrymen of ours were of course greatly grieved when old and young Dukes were obliged to bolt, for they thought the days of feasts and dinners had gone for ever. They had settled in this fair country for amusement's sake, and they could not endure the thought of seeing the next carnival spoiled because it had pleased the Tuscans to assert their political rights. How foolish of the Tuscans to send away a Prince who had such a capital cook, and whose Court was not, after all, so difficult to get into as that of Buckingham Palace! What a pity to have all the Ducal raree-show stopped under the ridiculous pretext that Italians have taken it into their heads to claim their independence! How could the ladies especially, old and young, endure such an enormity? It was their duty to make a determined opposition to the national Government of Tuscany, to summon the absurd people of Florence to an immediate revolt, to uphold the interest of their dear old Duke and their young Ferdinand IV. This is what was at last done yesterday (December 26) in the Piazza del Duomo by two fair countrywomen of ours, who are perhaps mere instruments in the hands of the crafty ducal party, for invitations to the Pitti and to the Cascine were regularly sent to these two heroines, Miss Lydia and Miss Mary S—. A large sheet of paper was soon provided, the words 'Viva Ferdinando IV.!' 'Abbasso il Governo!' ('Long live Ferdinand IV.!' 'Down with the Government!'), were quickly written in big letters, upon it, and the factious paper was posted up at the corner of Cocomero-street with more than Spartan courage. The two charming Royalists did not even choose the dark hour of the night for their purpose, preferring one o'clock in the afternoon. Now, this is a very dangerous hour for such pranks. The Florentines are fond of walking up and down their splendid piazza, and the two fair conspirators accordingly got themselves into a scrape. Four or five passers-by caught Misses Lydia and Mary in *flagrante delicto*; a great row ensued, and popular indignation was excited. Had it not been for Major Ginori, who happened to be passing, the two young ladies would have found it hard to get home as safely as they had left it. To the remonstrances of the Major, who speaks our language fluently, the dear little things had nothing to answer, but that they were longing for the return of their beloved Duke, and they had resorted to that rather extra-legal method of expressing their devotion to him. The police were not likely to share this heroic enthusiasm for the runaway Duke, and the consequence was that the ladies were politely taken into a cab to the nearest police-station. What made them look more like two agents of the ducal party is the circumstance that they are residing in the house of one of the intimate friends of the old Duke, and a near relation of a Marquis Medici, who has followed the Lorraine Princes in their flight. In spite of all this—in spite of their foolish attempt—Baron Ricasoli thought proper to have the ladies dismissed from arrest, for he was convinced they had acted under other people's advice. It would no doubt have been perfectly competent to the Tuscan Government to have had the two English girls brought before the judges of the country, but a month or two's imprisonment would have perhaps spoiled their fair complexions—a thing which the civilised rulers of this country would never think of doing. All this, if I am well informed, was fully explained by the Tuscan Premier to our able Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Corbet, who at the first tidings of the arrest had hastened to Palazzo Vecchio. At three o'clock the two tremendous anti-republicans were sent home, advice having been given them to join the Prince if they longed so much to dance with him, for it was certain that they would wait till doomsday if they hoped to see him again in Florence. Let us consider what would have been the probable fate of these young ladies had they posted up a factious paper on the walls of Verona or of Padua. They would most assuredly have been tried and condemned in the same manner that the Countess Contarini and Marchioness Arrivabene Gonzaga were at Venice and Mantua. Even Lord John Russell could not have protested, for the laws of the country would have been undoubtedly violated."



THE UNITED SERVICE.—A COUNCIL OF WAR.—(FROM A PICTURE BY H. F. RIVIÈRE.)

or a new system of ocean navigation, combined with a line of similar vessels. Offers have been already made to employ the ship in a regular trade, which is a proof that she is considered a great success by others besides the actual shareholders. The chairman concludes his statement by assuring the proprietors that his confidence in the undertaking remains not only unshaken, but confirmed by experience.

The following letter has been addressed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to Mr. Campbell:—

"Downing-street, Dec. 5, 1859.

"My dear Sir,—If I rightly understand your letters of the 30th and 2d, you have not failed yourself to perceive that there are reasons which must prevent the Government at the present moment from entertaining any proposal for the employment of the *Great Eastern*. Among these reasons are the intention to propose the renewal of the select committee on subsidies, the general duty of the Government to avoid anticipating the judgment or fettering the hands of Parliament in a matter which it has taken under special consideration, the heavy demands from other sources upon the Treasury, and, lastly, the as yet incomplete condition, according to documents in the public journals, of the Great Ship herself. The questions what are the claims of the old ocean route compared with that by the Mediterranean, and again with the Isthmus of Panama, deserve a more open and careful inquiry than can be undertaken by a Minister or a department in the course of its ordinary duties. I hope they will receive this full examination at the hands of the committee. You ask for an assurance that no new fixed subsidy shall be given for Indian or for Australian service until the result of the *Great Eastern*

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

Just now opera is quite subservient to pantomime. Harlequin is the tenor, Clown the baritone, Pantaloon the bass, and Columbine the soprano. The pantomimic quartet go through their spirited performances, singly or in concert, to the sound of unintermittent fiddling; and as long as this curious sort of noise remains in fashion opera has nothing to do but to be silent, or to make itself heard at the very beginning of the evening—like Mr. Alfred Mellon's "Victorine"—at an unbecoming hour, and for a short space of time.

Good tidings have reached us in connection with the Royal Italian Opera. It is expected that the director will begin his campaign with "Dinorah," which will not be given again during the present season at the Royal English Opera. Madame Miolan-Carvalho is re-engaged, and it is said that several works will be produced with a special view to her peculiar powers. Among others, "The Marriage of Figaro" is mentioned, in which Madame Miolan-Carvalho sustained, and still sustains, the part of the page—usually, though not in accordance with Mozart's design, given to a contralto—with so much success at her husband's theatre, the Théâtre Lyrique. The Théâtre Lyrique version of Mozart's great comic work entitled "Les Noces de Figaro" differs both from the Italian libretto and from Beaumarchais' comedy on which, as every one knows, it is founded; but, of course, at the Royal Italian Opera the original version will be retained. The recently-produced "Faust," by M. Gounod—who (though he has now a large and constantly-increasing majority in his favour) is declared by equally-competent critics to be, after Meyerbeer, the finest and the worst dramatic composer in Europe, and whom we believe to be neither the one nor the other—will certainly be given, we are told.

Among the new engagements will be that of Mme. Czillak, a Hungarian lady, who is at present prima donna at Vienna, where she has been in the habit of appearing with Mlle. Titiens, the former taking the most important soprano parts—such, for instance, as Donna Anna to Mlle. Titiens' Zerlina. This, however, may only mean that Mme. Czillak is Mlle. Titiens' senior at the Government Theatre. We heard Mme. Czillak once last season at the Hanover-square Rooms, where she sang the grand scena from "Fidelio" very admirably, and with much dramatic expression; but we do not believe that she is destined to eclipse the great German prima donna, either as a singer or as an actress. Mme. Czillak will appear in the principal parts of some of the German operas, and will replace Mlle. Marai (who is not re-engaged) in works of the Italian school. She will thus be a most valuable acquisition to the company.

We are not aware that any offer has been made to a new Italian prima donna, though subscribers would doubtless be glad to have an opportunity of hearing Madame La Grue, who is now singing with wonderful success at St. Petersburg. Moreover, it will be absolutely necessary, before long, to find some Italian vocalist with a little of that genius which Mlle. Lotti does not possess, to take such parts as were formerly intrusted to Madame Grisi. Not that Madame Grisi has as yet finally retired from the stage, but it is understood that her "farewell" appearances at the Royal Italian Opera next season are to be strictly of a valedictory character; and we are convinced that the public will say adieu to her with considerable regret, if they are quite sure she will never return. Some will regret her Norma and Lucie de Borgia, in which she exhibits such great dramatic power, and such remarkable want of voice; all will regret the Grisi of former days, and some will regret very keenly the year 1831, in which Madame Grisi made her first appearance.

The London Glee and Madrigal Union, which wandered about last year from Hanover-square to Willis's Rooms, and back again, through Piccadilly to Hanover-square, has now taken up its quarters permanently at the Dudley Gallery, Egyptian Hall, where the first concert for the 1860 season was given on Monday afternoon in presence of a large and appreciative audience. As usual, Mr. Land conducted and occasionally officiated at the piano, while Mr. Thomas Oliphant, the honorary secretary to the society, again appeared as lecturer, and added much to the interest of the entertainment by his critical and anecdotal commentaries on the various pieces performed. The first part of the programme was devoted altogether to old English music, from the earliest specimens up to the beginning of the seventeenth century. It included the ancient round for six voices, "Summer is iucmen in," of which the authorship is involved in obscurity, but which, according to Mr. William Chappell ("Popular Music of the Olden Time"), is undoubtedly one of the very oldest examples of English part music; the "Kynge's ballad," called "Passetyme with good companie," which is generally attributed to Henry VIII., and may actually have been written by Mr. Frodhe's jovial protégé, though it was first made known during the reign of his predecessor and father; Festa's beautiful and (thanks, chiefly, to its frequent performance at the "Opera Concerts" of the Crystal Palace) well-known madrigal for male voices, "Down in a Flowery Vale;" the Kentish "Wooring Song" and chorus, "I have a House and Land in Kent" (composer unknown); the melodious and expressive madrigal of Edwardes, "In going to my lonely bed" (which belongs to the first year of the sixteenth century); the Maypole song and chorus, "To the Maypole haste away," of which good use has been made by Mr. Macfarren in his admirable English cantata; the quaint "Strike it up, Neighbour!" (traditional) which has always been a favourite piece at the concerts of the London Glee and Madrigal Union; and Ravenscroft's curious dialogue "In the Merry Spring." The various madrigals and part-songs were rendered with much taste, but naturally with far less effect than is produced when the compositions are given by a large choir. The "London Glee and Madrigal Union" consists of six active or "effective" members (two ladies and four gentlemen), exclusive of Mr. Land, the director, who occasionally comes out as tenor; and Mr. Oliphant, the honorary secretary. Several of the madrigalists—for instance, both the ladies—are also accomplished solo singers; and at each of the concerts of this interesting society a certain number of ballads, belonging to the most part to the "music of the olden time," are introduced.

THE SOLDIER'S REWARD.—The Colonelcies of Regiments are some of the few prizes which can be distributed among our worthiest veterans. Great care, therefore, is taken that they shall never be bestowed upon unworthy recipients. We have to call attention to two recent instances in which the privilege of selection and recommendation has been worthily exercised at the Horse Guards. It was not long since the Earl of Cardigan, in acknowledgement of his valuable and distinguished services in the Crimea—more especially on the fatal day of Balaklava—was presented with the Colonelcy of the 5th Dragoon Guards. The reward was cumulative, for this illustrious warrior held at the time, and still holds, the office of Inspector-General of Cavalry. But what honours could be equal to his transcendent merits? His military career has been distinguished by a happy union of valour and prudence above all praise. Scarcely had the cavalry in the British service been gratified by this appointment when an opportunity occurred of stimulating the ardour of the infantry. The Colonelcy of the 82nd Regiment fell vacant, and it became a question, where all were so brave, who was the bravest among so many distinguished officers—who had earned the highest distinction? The doubt was but momentary. An instant's reflection sufficed to convince the Horse Guards that when such a question was raised General Ashburnham's claims set all rivalry at defiance. Omitting all mention of the previous incidents in his career, had he not in a recent instance, when the fate of British India was trembling in the balance, by that skilful retrograde movement upon the deck of the homeward-bound steamer struck terror into the minds of the foe? Had he not—so burning was his patriotism, so overpowering his love of his native land—hurried back to the shores of England, without regard to those rigid rules of military service which are only binding on the peon and the marinet? Whatever difference of opinion may have existed at the time as to the propriety of this step, the authorities at the Horse Guards have at length proclaimed it as their deliberate opinion that General Ashburnham is the officer whom, above all others, the British nation should delight to honour.—*Times*.

AMERICAN ARCTIC EXPEDITION.—A Canadian paper informs us that another Arctic expedition is preparing to start next spring. "Dr. I. I. Hayes, the surgeon of the Kane expedition, will be at the head of it, and it will be entirely sustained by the scientific associations of the United States, which have entered into it with great interest. The leading object will be to complete the explorations commenced by Dr. Kane, and settle the question of the open Polar Sea, and the other scientific problems connected with it."

BALL AT ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL.

THE annual Christmas ball of the patients in St. Luke's Hospital took place in one of the large wings of the building on Wednesday evening, and, as usual, passed off with marked success and spirit. The ballroom had been entirely decorated by the patients, who evinced the most lively interest in all relating to the festivity. Their efforts in this respect displayed a skill and good taste which showed at once that, no matter how much the darkness of mental disease had clouded their other powers, it at least had left their perceptions of what was simple and beautiful alive in all their force. Wreaths of evergreens and little parti-coloured flags were disposed about the room, the roof of which was covered at all points with festoons of coloured paper garlands, made with great skill, and adjusted with considerable effect. At one side of the room was a large Christmas-tree, the vegetable characteristics of which were almost entirely concealed under a crowd of ornaments of all kinds—dressed dolls, bead-mats, purses, and other trifles, all made by the patients themselves. The whole aspect of the room was festive in the extreme, and the touching innocence and childishness with which all the patients entered into the dances and amusements of the evening was affecting, though it was also gratifying. The contrast which such a scene presented to the mind's eye between the treatment of the insane now and what it was a few years ago was most striking. The days of straitwaists, coats, darkness, bread and water, and floggings have passed away, and in their stead has sprung up a system which gives such contentment to the patients as secures them quiet if not happiness. The supporters of the old-school theory of treatment may be astonished to hear that in an hospital as large as St. Luke's not a single straitwaistcoat is to be found, nor has there been one in the building for years and years past. The most perfect gentleness, light, air, amusement, freedom from excitement, and nutritious diet raise the cures at St. Luke's to no less than 68½ per cent per annum, or actually more than two out of every three patients admitted. Under the old system, of which Hogarth has left us such a fearful picture, the recoveries from this most awful of all maladies were scarcely more than two or three per cent.

The hospital is generally regarded as a sort of prison for the insane; but, so far as confinement from being practised, that, in fact, both male and female patients go beyond the precincts of the hospital almost daily for walking exercise, and many of the least afflicted have been trusted out on parole, while nearly all have visited by turns the Crystal Palace, Zoological Gardens, British and Indian Museums, and other exhibitions. In addition, the whole interior of the hospital has been rearranged in such a manner as to give it the lightest and most cheerful aspect.

The ball of Wednesday evening was continued till about ten o'clock. Several gentlemen interested in the charity were present, and contributed by their vocal and instrumental performances to the amusement of the evening. The utmost decorum marked the conduct of the patients, who only testified by a little unusual exuberance of spirits now and then at some favourite tune or song the presence of the dreadful malady which had stricken down their intellect. The eager joy, too, with which they received the presents on the Christmas-tree, and partook of the cakes, &c., provided for their refreshment, was not the least touching and gratifying part of the evening's proceedings.

Similar balls take place at the hospital once a fortnight, though, as a matter of course, the New-Year's ball is always the event of the year. Such an entertainment must be witnessed to fully understand the many comforts and amusements which the most awful of all diseases still leaves within the enjoyment of the patients of St. Luke's.

THE WOOLWICH ESTABLISHMENT for the manufacture of the Armstrong guns is now turning out for proof twenty guns per week, commencing with the present week. After the erection of a new huge steam-hammer the work, it is expected, will be considerably augmented.

THE NEW BRONZE COINAGE.—The arrangements for the execution of the new coinage of mixed metal have made some progress, and Mr. Leonard Wyon, medalist to the Mint, has been recently favoured with several audiences of the Queen for the purpose of obtaining a correct profile of her Majesty for the formation of the obverse of the three denominations of coins. It may be trusted that little time will be expended in completing the plans for the contemplated improvement, and that early in the new year the new money will be issued, to the great convenience of her Majesty's lieges, whose pockets are now "bowed down with weight"—of copper.

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY have directed a number of pieces of timber belonging to the old frigate *Shannon*, lately broken up at Chatham Dockyard, to be forwarded to Somerset House, to be preserved in the model-room of the Admiralty, where they will be converted into blocks and stands for the various models, in order to be kept as relics of that famous old frigate.

DEATH THROUGH CHLOROFORM.—The *Scotsman* describes the death of Mr. Renwick, a surgeon of Alloa, from the effects of chloroform. He had suffered from what is called onychia, and a brother surgeon called on Saturday to perform a slight operation on him. He took chloroform himself, and surprise was occasioned by Mr. Renwick not waking to consciousness when the operation was over. His breathing increased heavily; surprise increased to alarm as all efforts to revive him proved unavailing. Ere long the breathing had subsided—life was gone. Mr. Renwick was much respected in the district; he had not attained his thirtieth year, and was recently married.

RUSSIA AND THE NATIONALITIES.—It is the avowed policy of Russia to patronise just now the doctrine of nationalities and races, as a corollary of the great Pan-Slavonic organisation through which it seeks to amalgamate in one powerful aggregate all the branches of that race on the borders of its European empire. The Poles and Galicians, as well as the Croats, and a large section of Bohemians and Moravians, belong to the same family of mankind as the Muscovites, and consanguinity is traceable in the respective languages of each. *Le Nord* of Wednesday devoted the greater part of its columns to an article headed "Germany before Congress," in which it seeks to arouse a similar spirit among the great Teutonic population, and to introduce the movement now progressing in Italy for combination and national unity. As the curse of Italy was partition into small sovereignties, as the Heptarchy was the weakness of England, it exhorts Germany to get rid of its ridiculous dukings and petty Courts. It states the melancholy fact that in the eighteenth century there were nearly 500 small potentates in Fatherland, gradually reduced to 200 at its close; that this number was cut down to 140 by the war of the French Revolution, until the Congress of 1815 fixed the number of Teutonic Sovereigns at the modest figure of thirty-eight, which is about thirty too much for the benefit of Germany.

NEAPOLITAN TYRANNY.—The *Times* says, in a leading article:—"Among the best political, and yet the least political, families in Naples there is one which has been suddenly made prey of. One of the sons has disappeared. The police vultures have swooped upon him and have carried him off no one knows where—no one dares to ask where. It is scarcely possible that he can have been guilty of any offence, even against such police ordinances as reign at Naples; for he cared nothing for politics, and had no connection with any of the societies which such a system as that now reigning at Naples will perforce engender. He was simply a quiet young man, mixing in good society, the son of a Neapolitan father and an English mother, and known to so large a circle that his arrest would be certain to send the desired vibration of terror through the city. The most complete proof of the abject state of the Neapolitans is, that the family itself does not cry aloud. Even the English blood in their veins does not boil over. It is left to a stranger, furtively, and with injunctions to secrecy, to appeal to Europe against this Francis II. of Naples—this youthful, kindly kidnapper—and to cite this last instance of his tyranny. In the centre of this typhoon of terror there is a dead silence; it is only from a dweller upon its borders that we obtain a little insight of what is going where it rages. The letter which has been handed to us, runs thus:—"I send this in the faint hope of being useful to a family with which the English residents at Naples must feel sympathy. —"s second son was arrested two days ago, and is now in prison. Nobody knows where or why; I believe the Government no more than the public. They do these things in *terrorem*. They occur constantly. Some are let out in a short time; some remain in confinement for years; some are exiled to a distant province, where, if they are not persons of property, they beg or starve. I write to you, not only unknown to the —s, but even to my own wife and my own son. There is such a complete reign of terror here that one distrusts one's best friends and even the imprudence of one's children. There are spies everywhere. The servants are spies; Dukes and Princes are spies; nobody is safe. Domestic visits every night. Last week, in Chiaja alone, fifty or sixty persons were stopped and searched at night as they were walking along quietly on their own business; even carriages were stopped and searched. The state of the country is beyond description or imagination; the nation is demoralized, and divided into two classes—slaves and mouchards."

LAW AND CRIME.

THE fracture of the second bell of Westminster has furnished matter for an interesting legal case, in which Messrs. Mears, founders of the bell, are plaintiffs, and Mr. Denison, Q.C., defendant. Mr. Denison, it appears, in addition to the eminent forensic talents which distinguish him, is also an amateur clockmaker and bellhanger. Specimens of his talents in the two latter capacities are to be seen in the great clock at Westminster, which no mortal power will ever induce to keep time, or to go at all more than a few days in the year, and in the remnants of the two gigantic bells. Men of moderate talents might, it is true, construct clocks with impracticable works, and even superintend the casting of useless bells; but the talent of Mr. Denison consists not so much in these acquirements as in the opportunities which he obtains for the display of his genius. When Big Ben's successor proved a failure, the organs of public opinion, casting about for a scapegoat, fell foul of clever Mr. Denison. Thereupon Mr. Denison wrote to the *Times* a letter in which he showed in the clearest possible manner that the fault was none of his. The fault (*teste* Denison) lay with Mr. Mears, the founder. "It was," wrote he, "a magnificent imposture. There is a place in the bell, on the sound-bow, far from where either clapper or hammer have ever struck (and this is probably not by accident), full of holes, some a quarter of an inch wide or more, of depths not certain yet, but some probed down to nearly half an inch—in short, every external indication of a perfectly unsound casting; and from two of these holes were visible cracks nearly a foot long, and of depths unknown. These holes," continued Mr. Denison, in explanation why he himself had, nevertheless, certified the bell as sound, "were all as carefully stuffed as a bad tooth by a dentist with some 'mineral succedaneum.' . . . And, to make all still safer, the bell was washed over with some colouring stuff which the atmosphere has removed. Some persons noticed this colouring as suspicious at the time," . . . and so forth. This extraordinary revelation, however, proves in due course to be a series of errors and perversions. Hereupon Mr. Mears commences an action against the clever Q.C., to recover damages for the obvious imputation of fraud upon them in the matter. He alleged himself ready to prove that the holes mentioned were mere air-bubbles, inseparable from the casting of so large a work; that the deepest penetrated only half an inch, and could not in any way affect the solidity of the bell, which was 8½ inches thick; that the mineral succedaneum was a white metal placed in certain of these air-bubbles after Mr. Mears had ceased to have anything to do with the bell, and, indeed, after it had been raised; that the "colouring" was a "bronzing," also performed after the casters' business had ceased, and without Messrs. Mears' concurrence; that, although Mr. Mears had cautioned Mr. Denison as to the comparatively brittle nature of the bell-metal, Mr. Denison resolved that a mass of iron, weighing 7½ cwt., and with a fall of 13 inches, which rendered it equal to a force of 1000lb. weight, should be used, not as a clapper, but as a hammer upon the bell; that, moreover, with a persistent blundering, without which the humour of the thing would be incomplete, Mr. Denison insisted that the bell should not be swung but rigidly fixed in the tower, so that, when the bell was beaten—not rung—"it was a mercy the whole tower did not come down." After the bringing of the action by Mr. Mears upon these grounds, and after delivery of pleas by Mr. Denison, that gentleman appears suddenly to have discovered that even his defence of the action was only another blunder. He, therefore, withdraws his pleas, and writes another letter, half apologetic, to the *Times*, to disarm the retribution of Mr. Mears. This letter is another blunder, for it does not go far enough, and makes matters rather worse by a half persistence in the original charges. So Mr. Mears signs judgment for want of a plea, and issues a writ of inquiry. Such was the groundwork of the proceedings on Friday week, when Mr. Bovill, counsel for the plaintiff, addressed the assessor and jury who were to decide the amount of damages to which Mr. Denison had rendered himself liable, not by his campanology, but by his authorship. At the termination of Mr. Bovill's opening speech the defendant's counsel suggested a compromise, as "money," he was sure, "was not Mr. Mears' object." The case was then stopped upon the terms of payment by Mr. Denison of all expenses sustained by the plaintiffs to the extent of a full indemnity. Here, let up hope, terminate Mr. Denison's misfortunes; for, to our thinking, Mr. Denison has as much right to undertake the superintendence of the casting of a bell as saddlers and crockery-dealers have to become civic magistrates. Every man has a right to any position to which he can by any possibility wriggle or clamber. Should he achieve the post and fail in its duties, the fault is not his, but that of those who permitted him to attain it. When the public has ascertained by whose instrumentality a competent lawyer was permitted to act as an incompetent bellhanger, to the enormous loss and permanent disgrace of the nation, the public will then, and then only, be in a position to ascertain on whose reputation the disgrace ought to fall and from whose pocket the expenses ought to be disbursed.

Charles Normington, aged eighteen, who, in company with another ruffian, unknown, some months since beat in the skull of an aged man at Leeds, has just made what we suppose is to be called an exemplary end, having confessed his crime and been hanged, after writing most edifying letters to his parents, and requesting them to turn from evil. The pious language of this cheerful brute, happy in the security of a heavenly future, and his plentiful textual quotations, show, so far as they go, a very proper feeling. But one element which ought to be therein is missing. There is nothing like horror at the enormity of the offence committed, nothing in the way of commiseration for the cruel end of his victim. He dies, as it has become almost a fashion for murderers to die in our day, but certainly not as such criminals yielded their lives in less enlightened times. A hundred years ago, as the chronicles of crime tell us, murderers submitted to the law with the image of their victims almost before the eyes, with bitter bemoanings, not of their own fate, but of their crime. A decent, wholesome respect for the sanctity of human life, of shuddering dread of the mere idea of murder, was thus spread abroad even among the lowest vulgar. Now the murderer dies a factitious example of pity, lecturing his parents, forsooth, on faith and connubial virtues. The solemn warning of an execution is thus reduced to a very minimum.

If poor dressmakers starving for lack of payment from lady debtors were to exhibit some of the spirit of Madame Courley, *modiste*, they would scarcely be driven to the Police Court as a refuge. Mrs. Emily White owed Madame a small account, and employed her to make a new dress of expensive material supplied. The dress was completed, and Mrs. White called on Madame for the purpose of trying it on. It was tried on, and then Mrs. White "tried it on" in another way, by attempting to leave in it, without discharging the account. Madame Courley secured the door, stood in front of it, and declared the customer should not leave in the dress unless it was paid for. The assistant-dressmakers surrounded their chief. Mrs. White seized a poker in self-defence, threatening to split their heads open. A large Newfoundland dog swaggered upon the scene, and, finding the parties thus engaged, amused himself quietly by eating up Mrs. White's twenty-guinea shawl. Mrs. White, rendered furious by despair, caught up a pair of scissors and cut the skirt of her own new dress to ribbons, to leave it as the "security" which Madame demanded. The Newfoundland dog, for the first time beholding criminality in all its absurdity, expressed his indignation at the absurd invention by the most horrible barks and growls. Mrs. White was at length fain to make her escape in this unexpected guise, and was afterwards summoned by Madame, whom she had struck in the course of the scuffle. The magistrate dismissed the charge, leaving the complainant and defendant to the appropriate remedy of "cross" actions, should they feel disposed to enter upon that harmless and inexpensive course.

At the Central Criminal Court William Jones has been convicted of attempting to murder one of the warders of the House of Correction, and sentence of death has been recorded against him.

The charge of perjury preferred by the Hon. Mr. Rowley against his late wife, before Mr. Paynter, at the Westminster Police Court, alleged to have been committed in her evidence in the Divorce Court, in the suit instituted by her for a dissolution of her marriage, has been finally arranged, and will not be proceeded with.

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